Vol. : 49 Issue : 8

Tamilarasu

Publication of Information & Public Relations Department

February 2018
Rs. 20/-

Tamilarasu

Publication of Information &
Public Relations Department
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2049

February 2018

Vol: 49 Rs.20/- Issue: 8

"Like the dictum, 'my duty is simply to do work', our duty is only to render service to the people. At present, we are very focussed on implementing welfare schemes expeditely and perfectly".

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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Designed & Printed at :
Tamilarasu Press
Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Kanagam, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113.
Tel : 044-2254 2221 / 2254 2224
E-mail : tamilarasujournal@gmail.com
Website : www.tndipr.gov.in

First Wrapper

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit** hoisted the National Tricolour and paid his respects in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** during the Republic Day function held on the Marina, at Chennai on 26.01.2018.

Chief Minister marshals all the numbers to show Tamil Nadu is growing remarkably in every front

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 12.01.2018 to the debate on the Governer's address (English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker,

One year of Achievements Hundred years leap forward!

Achievements of Two years, History forever!

Completion of Three years, comprehensive growth in all spheres!

Four years of Rule hailed by all!

Five Years' Rule – Immense Glory!

To cap it all, a second consecutive term for Amma to rule – a feat occurring in the State after 32 years!

I bow to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who gave good administration to the State.

I extend my New Year and Pongal greetings to Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Hon'ble whip, Party MLAs and to all MLAs.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Ponmana Chemmal, Makkal Thilagam, the hero of the Centenary function Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. lived up to his words – "I will give laws and schemes for the common good and for the Country's welfare" – and implemented many visionary schemes Following in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma

gave a new guideline to administrators to frame programmes for the people and not vice versa, implemented welfare schemes for the people and brought Tamil Nadu to the fore. Such a political maverick, she was. She, the golden star, gave life to Puratchi Thalaivar's precious lines –"in life or in death – the name should shine; people should say who else can fit in that person's shoes".

A matchless Mother for the working class; Our family Deity who removed the ills of the poor; an Achiever extolled by History; a 'Puranaanootru' epic who fought battles single-handedly; remover of distress in the lives of crore of people at a glance; giver of happiness to crore of people with a little movement of her finger; the vowel constantly chanted by the world and the history books; the Cauvery Mother who retrieved through her courage, skill and perseverance, the river of that name to longing Tamil Nadu! The queen of law who subdued the (State) border problems when the flow of Mullai Periyaru got thwarted; the incomparable leader who gave rice free to quench the hunger of the longing poor; an historic wonder by bringing to reality the vow –"I am for the people; I am (what I am) because of the people;" our Light House who made Tamil Nadu walk proudly on the path of growth with the 'Taraka Mantra' – Peace! Prosperity! Progress!.

I once again bow to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who is the personification of Love for us, the Source of Energy, the unparalleled Star of Hope, the Symbol of Munificence, Work, the Model for Enthusiasm and who is Omnipresent and who has carved a permanent niche in the hearts of the people.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Members of the Assembly have expressed their views in the debate over the motion of thanks for the address of the Hon'ble Governor in this House on 08.01.2018, proposed by the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman and seconded by Hon'ble Member Thiru. Murugumaran. At the outset, I thank all the members who have given constructive ideas, those who have praised and those who have criticized.

In accordance with the saying of the saint-poet Tiruvalluvar, "That is the great Country which is free from famines and plagues and the invasion of foes'' (Urupasiyum ovaapiniyum serupagaiyum/ seraadhu eyalvadhu naadu), Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ruled the State and found a permanent place in the hearts of the people. She gave to school children varieties of mixed rice, removed the hunger of elders and workers through "Amma Restaurant", gave Baby Prize Kits to the newborn and established Breast Milk Banks for them, supplied sanitary napkins to school-going adolescent girls, provided comprehensive medical insurance cover for curing illness and created many facilities for the Police Department for the maintenance of law and order in the State and totally identified herself with the State and the people of the State, declaring, "Tamil Nadu is my family; people of Tamil Nadu are my children and people's welfare is that of my own".

Hon'ble Amma was greatly interested in school children as they are the future of the Country. Out of this interest was born the decision to increase the free supply of uniforms to school children from two

to four and provide other inputs free of cost inclusive of text books, geometry boxes, bicycles and laptops to improve their science knowledge. Other programmes that not only brought about a socio-economic revolution in Tamil Nadu but impacted other States too, include marriage assistance, gold for 'thaali', a special agriculture package to bring about the second Green Revolution, higher procurement of milk leading to a White Revolution, free supply of milch animals – cows and goats – to improve rural economy and free supply of mixie, grinder and fan to reduce the work burden of women.

At a time when investors were hesitant to come to Tamil Nadu due to the State's power problems, our Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took a vow to change the State into a power-surplus one and successfully made the State to shine through a variety of schemes. By way of meeting the irrigational needs of the delta farmers of Tamil Nadu, she waged a great court battle and made the Central Government to gazette the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave various evergreen schemes like farm fresh vegetable scheme to fight inflation, THAI scheme to ensure rural development, distribution of smart cards to prevent smuggling of essential commodities in the public distribution system and to ensure regular distribution, budget restaurants, pharmacies, sale of salt, drinking water and cement, all with the brand name Amma and captured an ever-lasting place in the hearts of the people. Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, not only continues these schemes but makes new announcements and implements new schemes like the 'kudimaramthu' scheme.

As per the announcements made by Hon'ble Amma in the election manifesto, I issued orders immediately after assuming office, for the immediate closure of 500 liquor shops, grant of Rs. 85 crore for the construction of houses for fishermen, distribution of Amma two-wheelers to working women at subsidized price and increased the quantum of subsidy for that, hiking the allowance to the unemployed youth and the assistance to pregnant women from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/-.

Drought relief to the severely affected farmers and relief to the flood-affected in Chennai last year were provided after relaxing the norms. The transport workers agitation was brought to an end by reaching an agreement for a fair pay hike to them and by launching several measures to settle the long-pending retirement benefits to them.

An additional amount of Rs. 14,719 crore was allotted for effecting a pay revision to Government employees as per the recommendations of the Central Government's 7th pay commission. The speedy distribution of the increased amount has ensured their confidence in the Government.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R's centenary functions were held in 30 Districts, announcements were made on the developmental works to be taken up in the Districts concerned to benefit the people and steps are being taken to implement them speedily.

This Government has provided Rs.10 crore to the Harvard University in the United States for creating a Chair for Tamil.

It is the important work of a State Chief Minister to take policy decisions for the benefit of the people and to implement the developmental schemes quickly. In the last 10 months alone, orders were issued on 4,903 files after due scrutiny. I am happy to State that there is no pending file in my office.

A good decision was taken on several issues as a result of the lessons learnt from Hon'ble Amma in dealing with natural disasters like rain, flood, cyclone and drought, political uncertainties and agitations and in putting in hard work. Through this, I wish to inform this House that this Government is successfully marching forward without deviating even an inch from the path of Hon'ble Amma.

Hon'ble Speaker,

This Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma gives the utmost importance to education as schools are the places where the architects of the future India are shaped. In the last 7 years, 1,599 schools have been upgraded to various levels. As for school education, from bus pass to laptop to higher education everything is given free of cost by this Government. Historic streamlining activities like abolition of mark-based grade list, information about examination results through SMS, time-table for public examination at the beginning of the year itself, public examination for 11th standard students also for upgradation of education and forming a committee to change the syllabi up to 12th standard have been implemented in the interest of students. Only Amma's Government can do all this to revolutionize and energise the educational field in a great way.

Also, training centres have been started to give special coaching to students in Government and aided schools so as to enable them to participate in various competitions. Besides, this Government proposes to establish awards - 'Innovative School' award (Pudumai Palli) for the school that works exceptionally for the development of students' education and "Dream Teacher" award ('Kanavu Aasiriyar') for the best teacher in children's enrolment and in school management.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The priority given to higher education by Hon'ble Amma's Government has started yielding results. It is not I who am saying this; the report published by the Central ministry of human resources development says this. Tamil Nadu remains the premier State in enrolment in higher education with a percentage of 46.9, nearly double the national average of 25.2 per cent. This is the result, I am proud to say, of the setting up, in the last six years, of 4 Engineering Colleges, 16 Polytechnic Colleges, 21 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 24 University Constituent Colleges – totally 65 Colleges. This Government, that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, has set up 8 Government Arts and Science Colleges, 3 University Constituent colleges and one Polytechnic College. To help students of even backward Districts to study law, new Law Colleges have been started at a cost of Rs.6.81 crore in the Districts of Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram. They have started functioning from the 2017-2018 academic year.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government that is greatly interested in people's welfare, has recruited, in the last 10 months alone, 6,438 Personnel,

inclusive of 4,468 Doctors, through the Medical Services Recruitment Board. Besides, I have opened in the last one year, newly constructed hospital buildings costing Rs.620.69 crore. This has paved the way for the provision of quality medical facility even to the rural poor.

Accident changes a man's life totally. The organs of a person involved in an accident help another person. In this organ transplant surgery, Tamil Nadu remains the foremost State in the Country. I am happy to State that organ transplant surgeries in Government medical college hospitals are the most in Tamil Nadu alone in the Country. For occupying the premier position in this, the State has won national awards in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. The British Medical Journal, published from England, also has praised Tamil Nadu as a State worth following matters of organ donation.

Tamil Nadu has lodged its strongest protest to the reforms proposed by the Indian Medical Council. I very categorically State that Tamil Nadu will continue to vehemently oppose these new reforms as they will severely affect students' future and in addition usurp the State's rights.

Hon'ble Speaker,

On 01.04.2017, I inaugurated the distribution of computerized smart cards for the public distribution system at a cost of Rs.330 crore. They have been issued to 1.88 crore families out of 1.94 crore families and are under operation. Through this scheme, the Government has succeeded in eliminating bogus family cards and in checking irregularities in the distribution of commodities.

As per the announcement made by Hon'ble Amma in the 2016 election manifesto, crop loan, medium-term agricultural loan and farm-oriented long-term loan, working out to Rs.5,318.73 crore have been waived benefiting 12,02,075 small and micro farmers. To help farmers affected by the demonetization measure, to repay their crop loan, short term loans were converted into medium term loans and steps were taken to issue new crop loans to the tune of Rs.640.79 crore to 3,48,323 farmers.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government brought in many extraordinary agricultural schemes to usher in the second green revolution in Tamil Nadu and double the farmers' income. I am proud to say that this has helped the State Government to bag the Central Government's 'Krishi Karman' award for high production of grains in 4 years – 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

Following a historic drought not seen in the last 140 years, the whole of Tamil Nadu was declared as drought-hit and an allotment of Rs.2,247 crore was made towards input subsidy for crop loss of more than 33 per cent sustained by farmers. The amount was credited directly to 25,35,000 bank accounts of farmers in a short time.

On account of the effective steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government, 15,37,000 farmers have joined the crop insurance scheme last year. In the interest of farmers, the State Government gave, in time, a subsidy of Rs.564.70 crore as its share to the insurance companies. As a result of this, the companies have sanctioned Rs.2,980 crore as compensation

to 9,27,909 drought affected farmers. So far, Rs. 2,546.50 crore has been sent to banks to be credited in the accounts of farmers directly. I am proud to tell this House that the largest amount of compensation to farmers was obtained by Tamil Nadu in the whole of India.

I announced on 18.04.2017 that Hon'ble Amma's Government would permit tapping of coconut trees for production of 'neera' drink, a 50-year-old demand of coconut farmers for improving their income. After getting the Assembly's approval, a notification was issued on 21.12.2017. As per this notification, licence will be issued to approved coconut growers' company or co-operative society for production of 'neera' drink. Hon'ble Amma's Government will take necessary steps for easy availability of 'neera' drink to people of Tamil Nadu and for creating export potential in co-operation with the Central Coconut Development Board. Besides increasing the income of coconut farmers several-fold, this will boost the employment opportunities for the youth.

To safeguard the interests of delta farmers, a special 'kuruvai' package and a special 'samba' package were implemented in 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.56.92 crore and Rs.41.15 crore respectively. For the benefit of dry land farmers, another special scheme – Dryland Special Package – is being implemented at a cost of Rs.802.90 crore.

Besides, to encourage the system of joint farming by bringing together 40 lakh small and micro farmers, a 'Combined Pannaiya Thittam' is being implemented, as a first phase, in the current year at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

In 2011-2012 itself, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma issued orders for a grant of 100 percent subsidy for small and micro farmers towards micro irrigation and 75 per cent subsidy for other farmers - the highest in the whole of India. The scheme is continued. As the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the scheme in an excellent manner, the Central Government has increased its subsidy to the scheme from Rs.110 crore given in 2016-2017 to Rs.285 crore in 2017-2018. The Tamil Nadu Government is taking steps to add its own share of Rs.518.75 crore and give Rs.803.75 crore to micro irrigation organizations as subsidy.

The installation cost of micro irrigation structures has increased due to the implementation of the Central Government's goods and services tax (GST). To insulate farmers from this cost hike, the Hon'ble Amma's Government has decided to bear this additional expenditure and has issued orders for this. Through this, the State Government has protected the farmers who come forward to install micro irrigation structures, from additional financial burden.

Planting of saplings in connection with the birthday of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is in vogue from 2011-2012. This will be implemented in a big scale in 2017-2018 by planting Rs. 69 lakh saplings in 31 Districts at a cost of Rs.65.85 crore.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Amma's Government will continue to stress firmly with the Centre and in the Supreme Court, as did Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, that only revocation of the 1974 agreement and retrieval of Katchatheevu will be the permanent solution for establishing Indian fishermen's traditional fishing rights. Apart from this, I am happy to inform that the ceaseless efforts of this

Government fetched the release of 15 fishermen from an Iran prison and 263 fishermen from Sri Lankan prisons and they have been sent back to their native places. This Government will also intensify its efforts through the Central Government to get back the confiscated boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen from the Sri Lankan Government.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Though Kanniyakumari District was severely affected by the Ockhi cyclone on 30.11.2017, the District returned to normality in a short time due to the steps taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government on a war footing and the relief given at an unprecedented scale. Though many reliefs have been announced for the victims of Ockhi cyclone, I have now issued orders for the setting up of a fumigation room at the Kulasekaram regulated market complex at a cost of Rs.68 lakh for improving the livelihood of rubber farmers and this will be implemented by the rubber farmer-producer organization.

I continue to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to extend the period of search till the last fisherman who had set out for deep sea fishing, is found. Recently, I wrote a letter to the Defence Minister, stressing on this in a bid to save precious lives.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Doubts have been raised in this House about the financial status of this Government; outside also views were expressed about it now and then. Yesterday also, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Stated that the Governor's address contained contradictory Statements as at one point it said the State's financial position is well maintained and later it talks about the financial crunch. Rebutting the charge yesterday itself, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister said the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition had not gone through the entire portion of that particular passage but had relied on some words favourable to his charge and had come to that conclusion. The Governor's address says that this Government continues to keep under control within the prescribed limit the financial deficit and the loan proportion in the State gross domestic product even at a time when the growth of revenue income is coming down and revenue deficit is going up severely.

The indices for the best management of a State's finances are the quantum of financial deficit and debt proportion in State's GDP. This Government maintains that well. The financial crunch mentioned in the address refers to the revenue deficit and it goes on to say that pay hike has been given to Government staff after managing this deficit also. So financial management is about how the indices are maintained in highly difficult financial conditions. The Governor's address also makes it clear that adequate funds are being allotted to schemes and there is no shortfall in them.

In the 2016-2017 Budget estimates, financial deficit was estimated at 2.96 per cent and it was hiked to 4.58 per cent in the revised estimate. The main reason for crossing the 3 per cent threshold was Government's taking over of the debt burden of Rs.22,815 crore of the Electricity Board under the "UDAY" scheme. Because of this, the Central Government too gave exemption from the deficit ceiling for the year 2016-2017 only. If the deficit is calculated without taking into account the 'UDAY' scheme, the deficit, as per the revised estimate, was 2.88 per cent. As per the preliminary calculations, the financial deficit for 2016-2017 was

Rs.56,171 crore and its proportion to GDP, was 4.19 per cent. Without the loan burden taken up under the 'UDAY' scheme, the deficit was Rs.33,356 crore and its proportion 2.49 per cent. Anticipating that the financial deficit would cross the 3 per cent ceiling, exemption was given from the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act for the year 2016-2017 alone. The 2017-2018 Budget has estimated that the debt proportion in the GDP will be 2.79 per cent, well within the 3 per cent ceiling.

A comparison with other States' budgets for 2017-2018, reveals that the deficit as a proportion to GDP is estimated at 3.49 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, 2.97 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 3.44 per cent in Kerala and 3.20 per cent in the Central Government budget. It is clear that Tamil Nadu's financial position is managed within limits, better than other States and the Central Government.

As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the deficit as a proportion to GDP, was within 3 per cent, barring the year 2016-2017. Hence I wish to State to this House that financial administration in Tamil Nadu is proper.

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition has spoken as if the Governor's address is a Budget. Governor's address is only an introduction to hint at Government's plans. The tradition is to speak on the on-going schemes. There is no necessity that new schemes should be announced in the Governor's address. This is much more so, when the Budget is to be presented in a month or two. It is unnecessary in Governor's address as financial resource for implementation of new schemes cannot be immediately given. That is why the distribution of houses at no cost to the poor in rural areas is hinted at, keeping in mind the Prime Minister's Rural Housing Scheme and Chief Minister's Green House scheme and some data are given for the urban housing programmes. It is not possible to mention in the Governor's Address details of the allotments made for all schemes, expenditure incurred and the achievements made.

Mention of the subsidy arrears from the Central Government mostly pertains to the on-going schemes. Funds are released for them periodically. The Chief Secretary undertakes a quarterly review on this and the State Government constantly urges the Central Government to release the arrears, as and when they occur.

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition had Stated that this Government got only a very low amount from the National Disaster Relief Fund of the Central Government. Of the State Government's demands for the release of funds from the National Disaster Relief Fund, money is released only for temporary relief works; for permanent works, fund release is scheme-dependent. That is why the fund release from the Central Government is less than what we seek. During the DMK regime also, the requested money had never been released at any time in toto.

For example, the DMK Government sought Rs.3,789 crore in 2008 when Nisha cyclone hit the State but it got only Rs.570.16 crore; in 2010, Rs.1,929.21 crore was sought towards flood relief but only Rs.317.17 crore was allotted; in 2011, against the demand for release of Rs.5,248 crore to deal with the aftermath of

Thane cyclone, Rs.638.13 crore was allotted. Such instances are many. Why I am saying this, is that we place our requirements to the Central Government but they release funds up to a particular level only. In April 2008, in the DMK rule, the then Finance Minister Hon'ble Anbazhagan points this out. "You are asking what has happened to your demand for Rs.1,500 crore from the Central Government for the flood damages last December. I understand the Central Government is examining the request. Many people are under the impression that if we ask for Rs.1,500 crore, Rs.1,000 crore to Rs.1,200 crore will be released by the Centre; when that large expectation, computed by themselves, does not materialize, they tend to depreciate. This is a wrong perception. Whichever party is in Government, each State is allotted a pre-determined amount towards disaster/accident relief. Tamil Nadu is entitled for Rs.250 crore. Of this allotment of Rs.250 crore, 75 per cent is borne by the Central Government and the balance by the State and the amount is spent. Whenever we ask for funds, the Centre releases funds for immediate works; for permanent works like laying of roads, construction of bridge or anaicut, they should be brought under scheme works and included in State Government's schemes. For such permanent works, the States concerned should include them in their plans and implement them. Of the Rs.1,500 crore demanded now, the Central Government may be examining works for Rs.500 crore only. For immediate works we have permitted and expended that amount. Though we do not know how much more funds they will release for the immediate works, we have not stalled any loans. Works to be attended to have been carried out by the State Government. I wish to State they will continue to be implemented". This is the explanation for your queries yesterday.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's desire was that the benefits of all schemes should reach all people. For this, the co-operation of Government employees work is essential Hence, this Government is keenly interested in filling up the vacant posts in Government. In the period 16.02.2017 to 30.11.2017, I am proud to say, 5,902 Personnel were recruited for various posts in different Departments.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Some views have been expressed the view that appreciation to the Central Government for the goods and services (GST) taxation methodology, is against the policy of State autonomy.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been stressing that State's rights should not be snatched away and States should not suffer any losses when reforms are undertaken for indirect taxes. In that way, Tamil Nadu was prominent among the States that raised their voices against some of the provisions of the GST act when it was in the draft legislation stage. That is why some of the provisions that affected the interests of States were removed in the final form of the GST Act that was passed.

For instance, Tamil Nadu's demand for compensation of loss incurred by States was conceded and the payment of compensation was computed, taking the income derived from the taxes included in the new tax structure in the year 2015-2016 as the base and providing for an annual growth of 14 per cent. Also, the

tax on petrol and diesel was not brought under GST. The State is levying this tax. After these corrections only Tamil Nadu gave its consent to that legislation. Thereafter the State also passed the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act 2017 and it came into force from 01.07.2017. For the last six months, the Central Government too is giving due compensation amount to the State.

Through the State GST (SGST) and the integrated GST (IGST), Tamil Nadu got a tax income of Rs.0.24 crore in July, Rs.2,852.16 crore in August, Rs.3,143.35 crore in September, Rs.3,089.66 crore in October, Rs.2,874.29 crore in November and Rs.3,043.57 crore in December. As compensation, the Central Government has given Rs.614.10 crore for July and August, Rs.17.90 crore so far against Rs.30.27 crore for the months of September and October – totally Rs.632 crore. Tamil Nadu is to get Rs.422.24 crore as compensation for the months of November and December. I wish to State this arrear will be released shortly. Hence, through this, the size of the tax receipt and the rights of Tamil Nadu, have been protected. I also wish to State that Tamil Nadu has placed many demands at the GST Council meetings and got tax exemption and tax reduction for many commodities.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

To retrieve and rejuvenate water bodies in Tamil Nadu, 'kudimaramthu' scheme is implemented with the participation of the farmers. Under this scheme, 492 works have been completed in 30 Districts at a cost of Rs.81.95 crore in 2016-2017. The de-silted sand distribution scheme is implemented to enrich the fields of farmers with the sand de-silted from water bodies.

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition has raised the query over the number of lakes that have been de-silted. It was planned to de-silt 1,519 lakes. To get the work done in properly, farmers under various irrigation tanks have been involved in the 'kudimaramathu' scheme. This is a pioneering project. Through a letter to the Leader of the Opposition, I shall forward the details he wants. The scheme is flawless, because the bill will go in the name of the farmers. Cheques will be issued in the name of farmers. No one else can claim the money. If there is any mistake, it can be found out. To prevent malpractices , the District Collectors entrust the 'kudimaramathu' work to registered farmers' committees or the committees whose members come directly under the concerned tank for their irrigational needs. There is no partisan consideration in this. This is a wonderful scheme. If any mistake is pointed out, suitable action will be taken to rectify it.

Administrative sanction was given for the implementation of 2,065 works in 2017-2018 at a cost of Rs.331.68 crore. As there was water in the lakes and the scheme could not be implemented, it is proposed to be implemented now. We will give the list of lakes to be taken up under the scheme. To enrich the fields of farmers with the sand de-silted from the lakes, the scheme for distribution of de-silted sand is implemented. Under this scheme, 5,54,84,351 cubic metres of de-silted sand have, so far, been given to 5,11,694 farmers across Tamil Nadu. This is an ordinary matter. You are a farmer; I too am one. Fields need fertilizer. Through this sand, farmers get natural fertilizer which will boost production. I am happy to State that

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing such a wonderful scheme.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

Through this House, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition that immediate action will be taken if such an incident as mentioned by him occurs and Government's attention is drawn to it at once. This is an important scheme. The kudimaramathu scheme has been brought in to benefit farmers totally and wholly. This is implemented with farmers' participation. To avert any mistake taking place, farmers' monetary participation has been restricted to 10 per cent and the balance of 90 per cent is borne by the Government. Government wants the scheme, with farmers' participation, to proceed well. If there is any defect and it is brought to the Government's attention, necessary action will be taken on it.

I wish to inform the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition that we have taken several actions. We have confiscated the vehicles which were used to transport the silt for brick kilns. I will provide that information.

Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to urge the Central Government to fulfill Tamil Nadu's long pending and just demand of setting up the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery River Water Regulation Committee speedily. Under the river water linking scheme, the Central Government will continue to be pressed for making available to Tamil Nadu 125 tmc ft. of water near Grand Anaicut by diverting the surplus waters of Godavari into the proposed linkage of the Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery rivers.

The State Government has taken steps to execute the balance works of strengthening the Mullai-Periyar dam for storing water to the full level of 152 ft. The Kerala Government is not co-operating in getting legal permission for taking up these works and is placing hurdles to Tamil Nadu PWD engineers to proceed with their work in the dam site. Hence Tamil Nadu Government has filed an Execution Petition in the Supreme Court on 02.03.2017. I wish to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to take firm steps to ensure that the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu and in executing the orders of the Supreme Court.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government is well aware that roads are essential for implementing effectively many schemes drawn up for providing transport facility to people. Hence, new bridges have been constructed in five places, inclusive of Vyasarpadi and Tiruvottiyur Maattumandhai in Chennai last year alone at a cost of Rs.196.62 crore and they have been declared open by me. With NABARD bank assistance, 48 bridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.105.87 crore; construction of Coleroon bridge, Srirangam (Rs.83 crore) and a railway over bridge at the junction of M.S.P.Camp, Tiruchi town (Rs.81.40 crore) have been completed; a two-tier flyover is being constructed at a cost of Rs.320 crore at the Five Road Junction, Salem City; flyovers at Dr. Nanjappa road and Dr. Chinnasamy road, Gandhipuram, Coimbatore City at a cost of Rs.194.57 crore; a multi-lane traffic flyover is being constructed at the junction of Kuranguchavadi and AVR Roundtana road, in Salem City at a cost of Rs.111.40 crore; a project

report has been prepared for construction of a high-rise bridge from Uppilipalayam to Airport on the Coimbatore-Avinashi road at a cost of Rs.950 crore. Besides, flyovers have been constructed at Porur and Aminjikarai, Chennai at a cost of Rs.65.10 crore.

Impressed by Tamil Nadu's progress in the fields of road transport, shipping and harbours and to further encourage the State, the Central Minister for road transport and highways has Stated that his ministry will examine implementation of schemes worth Rs.1 lakh crore.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Under the programme 'Houses for All', Tamil Nadu remains the foremost State in the Country in forwarding scheme proposals and in the number of houses constructed. Tamil Nadu has created a 'Housing Fund' for providing houses to urban poor.

As for industries, the very fact that Tamil Nadu is in the second place in total domestic production and premier position in the total number of industries and workers, will show Tamil Nadu's inenitable contribution to India's industrial development.

Of the projects signed up at the global investors' meet held in 2015, 61 are under various stages of implementation with a total investment of Rs.62,738 crore; through this, 96,341 persons have been given employment so far. Following the success of the 2015 global investors meet, I am happy to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government is making arrangements for a second such meet at the end of this year.

By way of showing the confidence reposed by the major multi-national and inland industrial establishments in Tamil Nadu, I shall disclose the investments that are to materialize shortly.

1. A factory of the tyre manufacturing major CEAT company with an investment of Rs.5,000 crore;

2. A French company's factory for car assembling and research and development service at an investment of Rs.3,000 crore;

3. An extended factory of the Hyundai company with an investment of Rs.5,000 crore.

These and many other important investments are being finalized. Besides, high-level talks are being held with 15 companies for an investment of about Rs.25,000 crore. I am proud to say that all these investments will come into effect shortly and Tamil Nadu will continue to march on the path of growth.

To further encourage new industrial investments in Tamil Nadu, I am happy to say, that a bill - 'Ease of Doing Business in Tamil Nadu' – is to be moved in the House today for its approval. This legislation will ensure grant of all necessary permissions for starting industries within the stipulated time. As part of the procedure of simplifying the grant of permission for starting industries in Tamil Nadu, I have inaugurated on 02.11.2017 an integrated single window NET portal.

I have laid the foundation on 25.10.2017 for setting up an 'Aero Space Park' on 245 acres of land in the SIPCOT Vallam-Vadakal Industrial Park, Kancheepuram District. The Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper company has bagged awards for employing the

best environment-friendly tactics and for the best energy management. This Government has taken appropriate steps to make sugar factories give its recommended price for sugarcane.

Hon'ble Speaker,

There are 850 fire crackers factories in Sivakasi and surrounding areas in Virudhunagar District, employing about Rs. 2 lakh persons directly and engaging about Rs. 4 lakh persons in subsidiary trades connected with production and sale of fire crackers. In 2015, the Supreme Court issued an interim stay for the sale and use of crackers in connection with Deepavali festival in New Delhi and NCR areas. As a sequel to this, two petitions were filed in the Supreme Court to ban the sale and use of fire crackers all over India.

By way of drawing the attention of the Supreme Court to the possibility of a situation developing where the manufactured fire crackers may not get marketed, all the fire crackers manufacturing industries in Virudhunagar District, stopped production and went on an indefinite strike. They demanded that Rule 3 (b) of the Environment Safety Rules 1986, should be suitably amended to give exemption to them, treating the environment pollution as a short-term occurrence as the fire crackers are burst for one or two days only during the festival season. Taking this into consideration, Hon'ble Amma's Government will press the Central Government to exempt them.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The contribution of industries to a State's total growth is very high. For the uninterrupted growth of the industrial sector, power supply without any hitch is very very essential. Realizing this very well, Hon'ble Amma's Government has added 871 MW of power to the installed capacity so far. Through this, I am happy to say, Tamil Nadu will continue to be a power surplus State this year also as in last year. This is precisely the reason why the Department of energy was allotted Rs.3,072 crore more in 2017-2018 than in 2016-2017. In the six-year period of 2011 to 2017, 365 power sub-stations and 87,187 transformers were installed across Tamil Nadu. I am happy to inform that Tamil Nadu got the premier place in India in installing high tension transmission lines and second place in increasing the power sub-stations' capacity. With pride I wish to inform that solar panels have been set up in 38,904 green houses and 4,612 weavers' residences under the Chief Minister Green House scheme.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already inaugurated all the passenger train services in the high rise tracks of the stage I part of the metro rail project. Amma's Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Amma, has sent proposals for Central Government's recommendation to raise foreign funds to an extent of Rs.79,962 crore for the second stage of metro rail project which envisages laying 3 metro rail corridors to a total length of 107.5 km. Also, I wish to inform this House that the Tamil Nadu Government has entrusted the task of preparing the feasibility report and project report for a metro rail scheme for the Coimbatore City to reduce transport congestion there.

For conducting the local bodies election on the basis of the figures of 2011 census, the

Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission has been formed. It has issued a time-table for sending its recommendations to Government on reserved seats so as to delimit the wards of local bodies before 28.02.2018 and the publication of the final notification. I wish to State that local bodies election will be held shortly in Tamil Nadu on the basis of the Commission's recommendations.

Hon'ble Speaker,

This Government has allotted Rs.13,996 crore for the Department of municipal administration and water supply for 2017-2018, taking into account the need to give drinking water uninterruptedly to people and the developing urbanization situation. In 2016-2017, 4 water supply schemes and 6 underground sewerage schemes were undertaken under the Amrit Scheme. Four major combined water supply schemes have been implemented at a cost of Rs.373.44 crore to benefit 25.46 lakh people in one municipality, six town panchayats and 5,482 rural habitations in the Districts of Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and Cuddalore. Three combined water supply schemes have been implemented at a cost of Rs.140.40 crore to benefit 2.89 lakh people in 377 rural habitations in the Districts of Tirunelveli, Tiruppur and Cuddalore. Underground sewerage schemes in the left out parts of Ariyalur and Perambalur municipalities and in Krishnagiri municipality and sediment management scheme in Karunguzhi town panchayat have been implemented at a cost of Rs.55.18 crore.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has seen to it that there is no drinking water problem anywhere in Tamil Nadu even during the historic drought period. I am happy to inform that on account of the steps taken by Tamil Nadu Government, the Department of Town Panchayats has been presented the National Award for the best performance in solid waste management.

This Government has demanded that the centre allot Rs. 4,074 crore for rectifying the damages caused by the North-East monsoon in Chennai and other coastal Districts and for taking up permanent measures to prevent flood damages to Chennai.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The primary aim of Tamil Nadu Government Cable TV company is to provide people quality TV cable service at low cost. As a result of the consistent efforts of Hon'ble Amma's Government, the Central ministry of Information and Broadcasting, issued digital licence for Tamil Nadu Government Cable TV company on 17.04.2017. I am proud to inform that this is the first instance in the whole Country that a State Government undertaking has been issued a digital licence. Also, free supply of set-top boxes to the customers of Government cable TV, as announced in the 2016 election manifesto, was started from September last and so far 13 lakh families have benefited from it. Two hundred and eight channels beam their programmes in digital format for a mere Rs. 125/- subscription.

Hon'ble Amma had announced that a scheme with Central Government participation would be implemented by Tamil Nadu Government itself for linking the 12,524 panchayats in the State with optical fibre to enable people get all the Government services in their own villages through the internet. Accordingly, a scheme was prepared, Central Government's

approval was obtained and an allocation of Rs.1,230.90 crore was also got. All steps are being taken to implement the scheme speedily. Recently, the Tamil Nadu Government published a new e-governance policy, the first of its kind, to help people get more services through the e-governance.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued orders increasing the reservation to the differently abled in public sector undertakings, boards, companies and educational institutions to 4 per cent from 3 per cent to enable them to lead a life of self confidence and self respect.

Hon'ble Amma's Government which has an abiding interest in the welfare of minorities, has opposed jail term to Muslim men who divorce their wives instantaneously by saying triple 'talaq'. It has stressed this view point to the Centre also and has emphasized it in the Lok Sabha too. I am happy to inform that I have issued orders to extend the carry forward procedure, now available in direct appointments for Adi Dravidar, Scheduled Tribes, Backward and Most Backward classes and to the De-notified communities, to the backward Muslim community also.

For the educational development of scheduled tribes, Hon'ble Amma's Government will construct a hostel for students in Thuraiyur and Sengattupatti in Tiruchi District, two community halls in Pachamalai and Thenpura Naadu and two residential model schools and teachers' quarters at Javadhu hills, all at a cost of Rs.30.90 crore.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government is honouring Tamil scholars and those who brought excellence to Tamil language. Accordingly, a new award in science has been instituted in the name of Tamil scholar Chinthanai Sirpi Singaravelar; Manimandapams have been constructed for Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan in Dindigul District at a cost of Rs.1.30 crore and I inaugurated them on 31.12.2017; I announced at the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s centenary function in Thoothukudi District on 22.11.2017 that a Manimandapam will be constructed for Dr. P. Sivandhi Aditanar at Tiruchendur; for Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan, a Manimandapam was set up at a cost of Rs.2.80 crore and it was declared open by me on 01.10.2017; and a new Kalaivanar Arangam has been constructed in the Omandurar Government Estates at a cost of Rs.62.73 crore.

In this way, Hon'ble Amma had honoured many who had brought glory to Tamil language and Tamil Nadu, by presenting awards and constructing Manimandapams and Memorials. By way of honouring the memory of Hon'ble Amma herself, Amma's Government is taking steps to erect a Memorial Mandapam at the place of her burial. Steps have also been initiated for the Governmental take over of 'Veda Nilayam' where Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma lived and convert it into a memorial so that the future generation can cherish her memory, fame, greatness and excellence.

I am also happy to inform that a grand memorial arch will be set up on the Kamarajar Salai in connection with the centenary of the late Chief Minister Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R.

Hon'ble Speaker,

That Tamil Nadu occupies the premier place

for the last three years in attracting foreign and inland tourists, testifies to the fact that the State is a conducive place for tourism.

Hon'ble Amma's Government which is greatly interested in devotees' welfare extended the 'annadhana' scheme to 30 temples last year, undertook repair works and performed consecration in 655 temples and took up repair works on 01.11.2017 in Srirangam Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy temple without altering its heritage value for which the UNESCO has given an award. The Central Government gave the Swach Bharat award to Madurai Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswar temple on 02.10.2017. Permission for undertaking comprehensive excavation works at Keezhadi, Sivaganga District by the State Archaeological Department at a cost of Rs.55 lakh has been obtained from the Central Government and works will commence soon.

As per the desire of Hon'ble Amma and the decision of Tamil Nadu Government taken on 02.05.2017, the centenary of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was celebrated in 30 Districts till December last in an excellent manner. New projects numbering 521 were announced to benefit the people of the Districts concerned in those functions, foundation was laid for 3,200 new schemes, 2,329 completed projects were inaugurated and welfare assistance was distributed to thousands of beneficiaries.

Along with taking up many welfare schemes on behalf of different Departments, this Government makes announcements under Rule 110 of the Assembly Rules and action is initiated on those announcements. In the financial year 2017-2018, I have made 102 announcements under Rule 110. Of them, Government Orders have been issued for 76 announcements, works have been completed totally for 8 announcements and 68 works are under implementation. Preparatory works are under way for the starting of scheme works in respect of 23 announcements. Schemes for the balance of 3 announcements are under Central Government's scrutiny.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has made over Rs.2,174.61 crore to Transport Corporations towards payment of arrears to employees. I have issued orders for the disbursal of Rs.750 crore to them as announced by me under Rule 110 on 10.01.2018 in the Assembly, well before the Pongal festival. Also, by way of improving the efficiency of the Transport Corporations, 416 new buses will be operated. New depots will be set up in six places – Kannagi Nagar, Perumbakkam, Chengam, Sathankulam, Bhavani and Athur.

The Police Department has reduced crimes in the State in a major way by maintaining law and order in an efficient manner and by consistently taking severe action against criminals and goondas. Also, the State continues to remain a garden of peace due to the action taken against communal fanatics and anti-social elements. The birth and death anniversaries of different leaders including Emmanuvel memorial day, Muthuramalinga Thevar Guru Pooja, Vinayaka Chathurthi processions and Imam Ali memorial day and Babri Masjid demolition day in 2017, passed off peacefully without even a smallest flutter due to the excellent safety measures taken by this Government.

Hon’ble Speaker

Real independence obtains when women are free. As per the report of National Crime Records Bureau, Tamil Nadu stands foremost among the big States at the National level, that are conducive for the safe living of women; Coimbatore and Chennai come first among the big cities and metros respectively in India that are the safest places for women; and the rate of crime against women in Tamil Nadu in 2016 was 10.7 against the national average of 51.4. This is 40.7 points less. All this is due to the excellent maintenance of law and order.

The Bureau of Indian Standards selected 10 Police Stations as the best after evaluating 15,000 stations in the Country, on the basis of different factors, numbering not one or two but 80. In this list of 10, the RS Puram Police Station in Coimbatore city has been selected as the first and Anna Nagar station in Chennai City as the fifth and they have been given awards.

In the last one year alone, the Tamil Nadu Recruitment Board for Personnel in Uniforms, has selected 12,535 Police constables (Grade II) and they have been appointed; steps were taken last year to fill up 21,919 vacancies; the Tamil Nadu police Department is the first in the whole Country to appoint transgenders; 33 Deputy Superintendents of Police have been appointed and they are undergoing training; 5,235 various posts in the Department from constable (First grade) to the Director General of Police have been filled up through promotion.

Last year, 2,047 quarters for Police constables (Rs.244.32 crore), 85 Police Stations (Rs.51.53 crore) and 56 other Departmental buildings (Rs.83.85 crore) were constructed.

Though it is the general phenomenon all over the world that crime incidents will increase by the year due to population explosion, developing socio-economic conditions and urbanization, Tamil Nadu remains a garden of peace due to the full freedom given, on the lines of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to the Police Department.

I wish to inform that Hon’ble Amma’s Government, in the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu, will continue to stress on the Central Government to reconsider its proposals either to close down or annex with other States’ branches, some of its institutions functioning in Tamil Nadu –Central Sugarcane Research Station, Plantain Research Station, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture and the Central Printing Press in Coimbatore.

Some parties try to create a wrong image of Tamil Nadu Government of functioning subserviently to the Central Government and giving up the interests of the State. It is certain that the people will never accept this.

Hon’ble Amma’s Government continues to voice its protests to the Centre in matters that affect the interests of Tamil Nadu like the new reforms to the Indian Medical Council, shifting of Central Government institutions from the State and on issues such as Neduvasal, Kathiramangalam and Katchatheevu.

Since the Central Government conceded to the amendments suggested by Hon’ble Amma, Hon’ble Amma’s Government agreed to schemes like GST, Food Safety Act and UIDAI. Tamil Nadu is maintaining cordial relations with the Centre for getting enough funds for Tamil Nadu’s projects and growth. I wish to inform this House that Hon’ble Amma’s

Government has not given up Tamil Nadu's rights even an iota in any way.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is seeking funds from the Centre for various natural calamities and developmental schemes. Though the Centre does not allot the amount sought by the State in its entirety, it is Tamil culture and democratic tradition to thank for the amount received. I wish to point out to this House that to demean even an expression of thanks is not civilized democracy.

Within a year of assuming office with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we have prepared schemes for several years to come, and achieved many things, worthy to be talked about for a century. Without any publicity or ado, this Government continues to implement Hon'ble Amma's schemes with one-pointedness and inaugurates the new schemes speedily. We are vigilant that the benefits of our schemes should reach the people even in the farthest corner of the State, in full, without any seepage. We consider, beneficiaries' satisfaction and mental peace as our regime's success.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Yesterday, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition listed the schemes that were implemented for Tamil Nadu in their rule when they were in the coalition Government at the Centre. Though not a partner in the Central Government, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Amma's Government that follows her path, got more funds from the Central Government for new schemes and additional funds for effectively implementing Central Government shared schemes and it is implementing these schemes efficiently for the sake of the people of Tamil Nadu. I wish to mention in this House some of the schemes.

At a meeting held at Chennai on 23.11.2017, Thiru. Nitin Gadkari, Central Minister for Road Transport, Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Rejuvenation of Ganga, agreed to sanction Rs. 1 lakh crore for Road and Harbour Development in Tamil Nadu. Some of these schemes are: schemes for road development at a cost of Rs.40,000 crore; to reduce traffic congestion in Chennai, a Tambaram-Chegalpattu elevated highway (Rs.2,250 crore), Poonamallee-Madravoyal elevated highway (Rs.1,500 crore) and Tiruvallur elevated highway (Rs.1,000 crore); Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway at a cost of Rs.20,000 crore; widening of Koyambedu-Poonamallee-Walajapet road at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore; development of Tiruchi-Chidambaram road at a cost of Rs.4,000 crore; development of Villupuram-Nagapattinam Road at a cost of Rs.6,000 crore; road safety works in national highways at a cost of Rs.2,300 crore; and development works for Thoothukudi harbour at a cost of Rs.3,000 crore.

In respect of the Department of Public Health and Family Welfare, a total of Rs.6,343 crore has so far been received from the Central Government for many schemes. This includes Rs.1,244 crore for implementation of Tamil Nadu Health Scheme – I, Rs.2,686 crore for upgrading medical infrastructure facilities and setting up super-speciality hospitals in the Districts of Madurai, Thanjavur and Tirunelveli at a cost of Rs.150 crore each (total Rs.450 crore) under the Pradhan Mantri Swaasthya Suraksha Yojana.

At the opening ceremony of the memorial for former President Thiru. Abdul Kalam at Rameswaram on July 27 last, Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi announced that the Central Government was ready to sanction and allot funds for construction of any number of houses Tamil Nadu Government desired under the Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana scheme.

For modernizing Police Department, Rs.105.48 crore for setting up a crime and criminal tracking network system (CCTNS) and Rs.367.87 crore for modern communication equipment, logistics, vans etc.;

Rs.11,498.46 crore for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation works; Rs. 8,891.47 crore for smart cities plan; Rs.4,790 crore with Asian Development Bank assistance for water supply and sewerage schemes; Rs.3,831 crore for long-term urban development works in Tamil Nadu; Rs.1,439.26 crore with assistance from German Development Bank for urban infrastructure works; Rs.226.59 crore for the second stage works of dam renovation and development works; Rs.1,560 crore for works to adjust to climate change in tail-end areas of Cauvery; conversion of 500 trawling boats into deep sea fishing boats at a cost of Rs.200 crore to benefit fishermen in Palk straits; fishing harbours at Colachal and Chinnamuttam at a cost of Rs.194.62 crore which came to operation in 2016; new fishing harbours at Thengaipattinam, Poompuhar and Mukkaiyur at a cost of Rs.359.90 crore and they have become operational; renovation of fishing harbours at Nagapattinam and Chennai at a cost of Rs.147.22 crore and 50 fish landing bays at a cost of Rs.250 crore and many more such schemes can be listed as being implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Hon'ble Governor's address eliticits tears of joy. Without understanding the difference between the tears of joy and tears of sorrow, the leader of the opposition recited a folk song yesterday beginning with 'Oosi munaiyile moondru kulam vetti' . I wish to reply in his own style. "Aananda kanneeru, aaraga perugi, aanai kulithaeri, kulamaga thaengi, kuthirai kulithaeri, vaaikkaalaai odi, injikku paaindhu, elumichai vaerodi, manjalukku paaindhu, marudhondri vaerodi, thaazhaikkum paaindhu, thalumbiyadhaam aanadha kanneeru" ('Tears of joy flowed like a river, after a bath by the elephant, collected like a tank; after a horse took the bath, passed like a canal and flowed to ginger, lemon, turmeric and even small flower plants like maru and thaazhai')

We will use the criticism levelled against this Government as the stepping stones for victory and progress further and further. I wish to pint out that loyalists of Hon'ble Amma, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, stand by me and work tirelessly day and night for the people. We believe that Tamils who are affectionate and attached to Hon'ble Amma will always be supportive of this Government.

Hon'ble Speaker,

I hope this reply of mine would have satisfied the Hon'ble Members. Hence, I request the members of this House, through the Hon'ble Speaker, to endorse my reply, withdraw the amendments given to the motion of thanks to the Hon'ble Governor's address and pass the resolution unanimously.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Republic Day celebrated with patriotic enthusiasm

Republic Day celebrations commenced with great enthusiasm on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government at Kamarajar Salai on the morning of 26.01.2018. Escorted by the Traffic Police on motorbikes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami came waving his hands to convey his Republic-Day greetings to people who had gathered on either side of the road. The Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan I.A.S., received the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the dais with a bouquet of flowers.

Shortly after, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, escorted by IAF personnel on motorcycles, came to the site and conveyed his Republic day greetings to people in the visitors' gallery. He was received on the dais by the Hon'ble Chief Minister with a bouquet of flowers.

This was followed by introduction of the Commanders of the three Forces and the high officials of the Police Department to the Hon'ble Governor by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu then hoisted the National Flag to the accompanishment of the Police Band. The Hon'ble Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and all those assembled paid their respects to the National Flag. An IAF helicopter flew low and showered flower petals on the National Flag, the event becoming the cynosure for all eyes.

Later, the Hon'ble Governor took the salute of a parade comprising the contingents of army, combined bands of the three forces, Navy, air Force, Coast Guard, Tamil Nadu Special Police (men), Chennai Metro Women Police, Tamil Nadu Commando Force (Men), Cavalry, Prison Security Force, Police Force of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, fire services

technology to Thiru. Munusamy of Kullanur Village, Dharmapuri District. Along with a medal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a cheque for Rs. 5 lakh to Thiru. Munusamy.

Thereafter, school students – boys and girls - in colourful attires came dancing to patriotic songs. This was followed by folk cultural programmes like Tamil Nadu's 'karakaattam', Gujarat State's 'Siddhi Dhamal' dance, Punjab State's 'Bhangra' and Karnataka's 'Dollu Kunitha' dance.

Following these events, the different Departments of Tamil Nadu Government paraded their decorative floats which highlighted their achievements. Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister enjoyed all these events. Thousands and thousands of people exhibited their patriotism by participating in the Republic Day function, conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government. The function came to a close with the rendering of the National Anthem.

The Agriculture Department got the first prize in the display of floats, the Department of Higher Education the second prize and the Department of Information and Public Relations the third prize.

Department, NCC and the combined band teams of various forces.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister then presented gallantry awards including Anna medallion. The Anna medal was given to Thiru. K. Shanmugam, constable in Railway Protection Force, Egmore Railway Station, Chennai District with a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh and a citation. Dr. I. Sadiq Pasha of Mughalpura street, Tiruvannamalai District, was presented the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony medal, a cheque for Rs.25,000/- and a citation. The Gandhi Adigal police medals with a cheque for Rs. 40,000/- each, were given to Thiru. S.Kannappan, Additional Superintendent, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Thanjavur District, Thiru. K. Ramakrishnan, Sub Inspector, Salem Zone, Central Intelligence Wing, Thiru. G. Narayanan, Head Constable, Ponnai Police Station, Vellore District, Thiru. I. Joseph, Head Constable, Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Villupuram District and G. Narayanan, constable (Grade I), S – 9 Pazhavanthangal Police Station, Chennai Metro.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister presented the Agriculture Department's special award for the farmer who gets the highest productivity, employing the system of rice intensification

Chief Minister writes to Prime Minister against privatising Salem Steel Plant

D.O.letter dated 15.12.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I would like to invite your kind attention to my D.O. letter dated 26.04.2017, in which I had requested that Steel Authority of India (SAIL) be advised not to privatise the Salem Steel Plant (SSP). I was informed by the employees of Salem Steel Plant that a Legal Advisor, Asset Valuer and Transaction Advisor have been appointed by the Central Government in June, 2017 itself and it was decided to constitute an Advisory Committee for speeding up the privatisation of SSP by calling for a global tender.

Salem Steel Plant, over the years has acquired global reputation for its high quality steel and is an iconic symbol for the State and the people of Tamil Nadu. We have a deep sense of pride and attachment to this Public Sector Plant. The Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired about 15.5 sq.kms of land in 9 villages four decades ago in the foot hills of Kanjamalai, Salem District. It was possible to undertake such extensive land acquisition mainly because of the public sector character of the plant and perhaps, the secured benefits that would accrue to the people of the State and the Country as a whole. As you are aware, land is the most valuable and sought after asset in possession of Salem Steel Plant today. Further, the Salem Steel Plant provides employment to about 2,000 persons and many ancillary and subsidiary units also depend on it. It was brought to my notice that the financial condition of the Plant has improved in the financial year 2016-2017 in comparison to the financial year 2015-2016.

Further, the State Government has supported the expansion project costing Rs.2,005 crore of the SSP with a **structured package of incentives** in the form of Soft loan, Capital Subsidy, Electricity Tax Exemption and Environmental Protection Subsidy. In 2015, the Government of Tamil Nadu granted a one year extension from 01.11.2010 to 31.10.2011, so as to enable the Salem Steel Plant to complete its expansion activities and avail the incentive package.

You are well aware that Public Sector Undertakings are capable of performing better provided they are given the right support and direction in a dynamic economic scenario. I believe that the reasons for the Salem Steel Plant's recent losses must be studied thoroughly and the Salem Steel Plant must be given a chance to improve its efficiency to make a turn-around. If that is done, I am sure that Salem Steel Plant will certainly transform once again into a profit making Public Sector Undertaking.

I, therefore, request you once again to kindly intervene in the matter expeditiously and advise the Ministry of Steel and the Steel Authority of India Limited not to privatize the Salem Steel Plant.

At mammoth turnout in Nilgiris District, Chief Minister asserts continuance of Puratchi Thalaivar, Amma's rule

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. centenary function held in the Nilgiris District on 30.12.2017 (English Translation)

Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the New Age woman envisioned by Bharathi, India's revolutionary woman, a victorious lady cherished by History, Tamil Nadu's daughter born out of penance who was its Golden Star. Paying my obeisance to such a God,

I am extremely happy to meet you all at the centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal who delivered an inspiring presidential address, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who gave a clear narration of

the past history of the party and how to defeat the conspiracies of the opponents, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programmes Thiru. S. P. Velumani, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations Thiru. P. Sankar, who welcomed the gathering, MP Thiru. K.R. Arjunan, Nilgiris MP Thiru. C.Gopalakrishnan, Coonoor MLA Thiru. A. Ramu, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, President of Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation and former Minister Thiru. Miller, Nilgiris District Collector Tmt. J. Innocent Divya who is to propose a vote of thanks, MPs and MLAs, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Representatives of Co-operative Institutions, former Representatives of Local Bodies, Party Cadres who are Aerial roots of the party, Government Staff, Respected Elders, Ladies, Youth, Beneficiaries of Welfare Assistance, Media friends - at the outset I pay my respects to all of you.

Speakers who preceded me here, said that Ooty had not witnessed such a large gathering as this one, assembled for this inspiring centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar centenary. The gathering resembles an ocean and Nilgiris people have created history showing the extent to which they love this Movement.

The Nilgiris District is the charming daughter of Nature with mountains, rivers, anaicuts, valleys, trees, flowers and plants and with green meadows and a canopy of blue skies and remains the Queen of mountains.

The Nilgiris District was carved out of the Coimbatore District in 1868. Gangas, Kadambas, Hoysalas, Naicks, Mysore Kings, Kerala Varma and Britishers had ruled this region. The sons of the soil of this District are Badugar, Irular, Kurumbar, Paniar, Thodar, Gothar and Kattu Naickers. They live in unison and preserve the heritage of this District. They also toil for the development of the District.

Badagar and scheduled tribes who form the majority here have great affection and love for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Whenever Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi came to The Nilgiris District, they used to come in large numbers like children coming to see their mother and shower love and affection on her.

United Nations has declared The Nilgiris a Biosphere Reserve and India's premier Bio-sphere sanctuary.

The Nilgiris District has many tourist spots like Ooty Botanical Gardens, Rose Garden, Mountain Train, Ooty Lake, Anaicuts, Doddabetta, the paradise of tourists, Avalanche lake, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Sims Park, Coonoor Kalhatty Waterfalls and Kothagiri. In short, Nilgiris is the paradise of tourists.

The District has fertile soil to grow different crops like tea, coffee, potato, carrot, cabbage, radish, beetroot, pepper, turnip, onion, garlic, country beans, peas, ragi, saamai, plantain, coconut tree, paddy and ginger.

Hydro power stations like Pykara, Maravakandi, Maayaar and Kundha not only light up The Nilgiris but other Districts too. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma dedicated to the country on 06.09.2005 the 150 MW terminal power station of Pykara.

The Nilgiris District also has tea, geranium, aromatic crops and oil manufacturing industries. Exportable orchid colour flowers, home made chocolates and varkey recipe add lustre to Ooty.

Evidence for the existence of stone age

man with livestock 4,500 years ago is found in rock engravings in Karikkaiyur region near Kothagiri.

The Nilgiris has occupied the prime place in the film and political life of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Most of the scenes in the films 'Anbe Vaa' and 'Maduraiyai Meetta Sundara Pandian' were shot in the Nilgiris. Most of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s song sequences also were shot at Ooty.

It was while participating at a meeting in The Nilgiris District, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. announced the Extended Nutritious Meals Scheme and plunged the audience in happiness. Due to the efforts of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., the Parsons Valley Anaicut at Ooty was improved and de-silted. This is the reason that the dam remains even today the water source for the people of Ooty.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. loved the mountains and the inhabitants of hills. He could not tolerate any distress to the hill tribes and would extend a helping hand to them and remove their distress.

With the conviction that even an ordinary man can be in the service of the people, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was doing service to people from his days as an actor. Once, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma asked Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in an interview: "What do you want to achieve in the film world?". From the depth of his heart, he replied: "Through the art of cinema, I should serve to make people of other regions and foreigners admire the uniqueness of our culture and civilization".

He never exhibited at any point of time two faces – one for the public and another in his private life. All his films propagated Tamil culture, civilization, justice and heritage. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was a

principled man as the lines in the song, “Pirandha naade sirandha koyil/ pesum mozhiye deivam; idhai marandhidaamal vazhndhu vandhaal/ gopuramaagum kolgai” (‘The motherland is the best temple, the mother tongue is God; if one leads a life without forgetting this, one’s principles will rise up like a temple tower’). That Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. loved Tamil Nadu and the Tamil language the most can be understood from his films.

While interviewing Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. for the film magazine ‘Bommai’, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma asked: “Are there pooja rooms in your house? Which God do you worship?”. Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. replied: “In my pooja room, the pictures of my mother, father, my wife’s mother and father, and Mahatma Gandhi are there. There is also a mirror”. See how the reply conveys a deep philosophy. Worshipping the picture of the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi conveys the principle that one should love his country and worship it as God. It gives us happiness. From Puratchi Thalaivar’s worship of Gandhiji, we can understand that Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. considered the country as sacred.

The way Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. conveyed to the world the greatness of domestic life through the worship of the pictures of his mother, father, father-in-law and mother-in-law is admirable. It is Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who had declared the universal truth that if the culture of respecting the wife’s side also grew, there would be no tussle or confusion in any family and happiness would prevail. The question may arise why should there be a mirror in the pooja room. The principle behind it is that one should Learn to respect oneself. Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. set up even a pooja room in his house with a great philosophical depth; no wonder he could capture the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu and ruled the State continuously for 11 years. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is the only leader who resides in the hearts of people even 30 years after his demise. Not only the previous generation respects Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. as one in their household, as the elder person in the family and as their leader but also the present generation does so and the future generations will also do the same. No other leader in the world has enjoyed this high status.

“My life is my message”, said Mahatma Gandhiji. Just like Mahatma Gandhiji’s life is a guidance for people, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.’s too is a model for the upliftment of humanity. The ethics Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. followed in his life, deserve to be included in the syllabi of school text books. I wish to recall an instance for this.

In his house, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had placed a hundi - ‘Kural hundiyal’ - for the collection of the fine of one rupee from those who failed in the ‘Kural’ competition. Every morning, celebrities like Kaviarasar Kannadasan, Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan and scholars would assemble. The competition was to recite 10 Kurals from memory fluently and without any mistake. It was Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who deposited the one rupee fine more. One of his friends openly asked him once: “You can memorize a page of dialogue in one breath; how is it, that you are not able to recite from memory 10 kurals adding up to 20 lines?” With a smile, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. replied: “We propose to buy ‘Thamizh Kalai Kalanjiam’ from this hundi money. We need money for that. Hence, I am deliberately giving up”.

The learned in the assemblage recited the Kural correctly and no money accrued in

the hundi. Out of fear that it would become impossible to purchase 'Tamizh Kalai Kalanjiam', Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was depositing money in the hundi. He thus exhibited his attachment to Tamil language.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s patriotism came to the fore when he donated his entire salary in a film to the War Fund for the protection of Indian borders.

Likewise, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma donated to the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Sastri all the gold jewellery she was wearing for war fund during the country's conflict with Pakistan.

Our two great leaders naturally inherited the qualities of patriotism, language affinity and philanthropy. These qualities became their strength and charisma to attract people. They could start a great Movement that could not be destroyed even after many centuries and protect it. Our two great leaders became a symbol of the principle: 'We are not responsible for the name given by our parents; we are responsible for the good name we earn in society" Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was known more by the sobriquet "Makkal Thilagam", "Puratchi Thalaivar" and "Ponmana Chemmal" to the exclusion of his real name. Likewise, the names "Puratchi Thalaivi" and "Ponmana Selvi" got registered in the hearts of people for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. To top them all, the single word "Amma" has come to be the best identity for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi in Tamil Nadu. In one of her speeches, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, emotionally stated: "For the single word 'Amma' by which you call me to the exclusion of the name given by my parents, I have dedicated my life to you and am toiling for you"

The first words Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma spoke when she stepped into the field of arts, was "Amma …Amma". We consider those as a sort of precursor for the world to call her "Amma" in later days.

We have the honour that we are the contemporaries of the very best woman achiever Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Have we met a woman as courageous, heroic and intelligent as Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma? The answer will be "No". After assessing Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's courage and heroism, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. fielded her in the political arena and scattered the opponents here and there. Single-handedly, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma struck fear in the big crowd of opponents in front of her. By winning 37 of the 39 parliamentary seats, she got AIADMK the status of the third biggest party in India.

If we scrutinize Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's song in the film 'Savaalae, Samaali', we can understand her quality. In the song 'Chittukurivikkenna Kattupaadu, Thendrale Unakkethu Sondha Veedu' ('What restriction is there for the sparrow; O! southern breeze, have you a home?), the following lines occur: "Valarum Thennai Marame – Nee Valarndhadhai poal Naan Nimirndhu Nirpaen; Vanangi Valayum Naanal – Nee Valaivadhaipoal Naan Thalai Kunivadhillai" (O! Growing coconut tree! I will stand erect like you; O! Suppliant Naanal, I will never bend like you"). Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the only leader who stood erect and never bowed to anyone till the last.

She led the party volunteers also, making them imbibe her qualities; Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the first person to lead our party with military discipline.

Once a media person asked Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in an interview: "After you, who is eligible to take up the leadership of AIADMK?" The reply she gave was: "Party volunteers will decide who is eligible". After Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, all the party volunteers are safeguarding the party together. As a pillar, each one is lending stability to the party.

Our greatest strength is the schemes Hon'ble Amma gave to Tamil Nadu. If we continue to implement these schemes for the poor and marginalized people, there is no doubt our party will remain stable for several more centuries as Hon'ble Amma had stated. We are good at designing schemes on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and implementing them speedily. You will understand this from the schemes we are going to announce here.

I have inaugurated through this event 258 works worth Rs.57.87 crore inclusive of a water supply development scheme for Ooty Municipality, costing Rs.27.20 crore and the setting up of Nanjanaadu Indco co-operative tea factory costing Rs. 5 crore; laid the foundation for 88 works worth Rs. 272.36 crore inclusive of two works of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board costing Rs.95.30 crore in The Nilgiris District; and welfare assistance of the various Departments to the tune of Rs.81.04 crore are to be distributed to 19,079 beneficiaries.

After this Government took over the administration till date, I have inaugurated 36,028 works across Tamil Nadu worth Rs.15,832.66 crore and laid the foundation for 7,212 works worth Rs.6,399.39 crore. Totally, 43,240 works are under implementation at a cost of Rs.22,232.05 crore.

I wish to mention a few of the achievements recorded by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government in The Nilgiris District in the last six years.

Co-operative Society loans to about 37,500 small and micro farmers running to about Rs.152 crore have been waived; through the Nilgiris District Agriculture Co-operative Societies, about Rs.610 crore has been distributed as crop loan to about 1,13,000 farmers; under the Chief Minister Uzhavar Paadukaappu Thittam, Rs.28.48 crore relief has been distributed to about 45,000 beneficiaries; laptops worth Rs.49.35 crore have been distributed to 32,330 students free of cost; under the marriage assistance scheme for educated poor women, about Rs.23 crore and 15.15 kg gold have been distributed to about 9,500 women – I am duty bound to mention proudly that only Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has brought about such a scheme in the whole of the country; direct bank loan to an extent of Rs.439 crore have been given to women self help groups; direct employment has been provided to 1,464 persons through 8 Placement Camps; under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme, about Rs.25 crore assistance have been distributed to 73 pregnant women; under the Chief Minister Green House with Solar Panel Scheme, 2,790 houses have been constructed at a cost of about Rs.47 crore; under the Private House Toilet Scheme, 32,771 works have been completed at a cost of Rs.38.79 crore; about 1,300 works under various schemes including the THAI scheme of the Rural Development Department have been completed at a cost of about Rs.140 crore; under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, about 17,000 works have been completed at a cost of about Rs. 103 crore; about 1,500 works under various schemes have been completed at a cost of about Rs.91 crore in the Town Panchayats of this District; 1,156 works under various schemes have been completed at a cost of about Rs. 128 crore in the Municipalities of Ooty, Coonoor, Gudalur and Nelliyaalam; about 180 works of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board have been completed in the Assembly constituencies of Ooty, Coonoor and Gudalur at a cost of about Rs.48 crore; the Tamil Nadu Generation and Electricity Distribution Corporation has set up a 66/11 KV power sub-station at a cost of Rs.204 crore in Gudalur; new low tension transmission lines have been laid to a distance of about 1,350 kms at a cost of Rs.500 crore in the Nilgiris Electricity Distribution Circle; the Public Works Department has taken up a total of 32 works at a cost of Rs.77.81 crore; roads to a length of 640 kms have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.316 crore in the District in the last six years through the Highways Department.

People of Tamil Nadu will enjoy for several more centuries the benefits of the schemes of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hence, the AIADMK will rule Tamil Nadu for many more centuries.

The name of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had created the AIADMK and embedded it in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu will remain steadfast in this soil for years to come.

The name M.G.R. is a mantra to us; we will drive away our enemies by invoking his name. That name has such a potency. We have the blessings of the honourable leaders who have shaped us. Without understanding this, some try to cast a slur on this great Movement by associating with undesirable people. It is like paupers joining hands to build a scam. Their dream and effort will never succeed at any time. You will understand this well, if I narrate it through a story.

A rat and a tortoise lived as friends on the banks of a lake. Seeing the tortoise diving

into the water, swimming for a few hours and coming back to the bank of the lake, the rat developed a desire to swim under the water. It expressed its wish to the tortoise.

"As you don't know swimming, you sit on my back when I swim in the waters. I will show you around under the water also", the tortoise said. Accordingly, one day it tied one end of a rope in the rat's leg and tied the other end in its own leg. "Why are you doing this?", the rat asked.

"Just as a measure of caution. Suppose you slip down when I am swimming, it will be easy for me to save you. When we swim under water, you tap my neck when you go out of breath. I will come to the surface of the water. After a pause, we can again go under water and swim", said the tortoise.

The rat was happy at the love and intelligence exhibited by the tortoise. They went for underwater swimming. Whenever the rat went out of breath, it tapped the neck of the tortoise and it came out of the water. Like this they sported for a long time, going in and out of the water.

This was watched by an eagle which was circling in the sky. It wanted to make a meal of the two. The tortoise saw the eagle watching them from the sky above. To save itself from the eagle, it dived deep into the waters, forgetting that the rat that was sitting on its back. The rat died of asphyxiation. Its body started floating on the water. The eagle swooped down and carried away the rat's body. As the rat was tied to the tortoise with a string, the tortoise also went up and the eagle made a meal of them in a nearby hill. Before breathing its last, the tortoise told the eagle: "We met this end as our friendship was an undesirable one. We are the best example for the adage - 'kooda natpu kaedaai vilayum' (undesirable friendship ends up in harm'). So saying, it died weeping.

Forgetting the policy of the party and the purpose for which Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. started the AIADMK and conducted it successfully and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma installed the party in the throne for a second term after winning the election, many partymen enter into an undesirable friendship with opponents and go about with conceit as if they have achieved something by themselves. Time will bring about a realization in them that their friendship is dangerous to themselves. The true volunteers of the party are watching them closely. At this moment, I wish to say that the Eagle of Time will destroy them.

As I came to this dais, I saw a photo of Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma with a towel tied around her head. We recollected Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's joyful dance with the women of the tribal Badaga community, when she came here to inaugurate the Flower Show. We feel Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is still living with the people of this District. She may have left this Earth but she lives in the hearts of the people of this District.

Likewise, when we see roses in the Ooty region, our mind goes back to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. In 1995, Amma created a Rose Garden in Ooty with 30,000 rose plants displaying 4,000 varieties.

Hon'ble Local Administration Minister and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister referred to the R.K. Nagar election. It was an election with a difference. No one – whether those in the dais, or the party executives seated in front or the general public or the leaders of political parties of Tamil Nadu or the political leaders of India or any political leader in the world –

could have thought about it. Earlier, they were talking about 'Thirumangalam formula'. Now, a far superior formula - 'R.K.Nagar formula' – has been found and he had won the election. That formula is a hawala formula. Till now, no one had ever thought of it. There are so many politicians, so many intellectuals. If one could hit upon a thing that has defied all these persons, we should ponder, what a criminal, he should have been. He has won through the hawala formula but calls us betrayers. People know who is the betrayer. I wish to point out that the one who has brought about this formula, is the betrayer.

Elder Brother (Thiru. Panneerselvam) said all those who have joined the (AIADMK) party – those in the dais, those seated in front or seniors in the party – have all come up in the party through hard work. If there is one who has come up without toiling, it is T.T.V. Dinakaran only. That is what Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister hinted at. What work has he put in? Nothing. A member of his family stayed in Amma's house and was helping Amma. Through that, this T.T.V. Dinakaran gained a backdoor entry. He could not retain the seat in the next election where he had won earlier. How can it be said that he enjoys people's support? Now, you have won employing the hawala formula. You have not won through direct contact with people. The whole country knows this. So, we are not the betrayers. We have all come up through work. Those in the dais, those seated in front and party executives have all come up to the present position through work.

Respected Deputy Chief Minister outlined how he came up in the party. In 1974, Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. formed the party--- called then as Anna DMK. I joined the party then. In my small Siluvampalayam village, I started my public life as branch secretary of the party. Gradually, I rose to be put in charge of the M.G.R. Mandram at the Union level. After Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the party, I was appointed as Joint Secretary of the District unit, then District Secretary and I was given many other responsibilities like Organising Secretary and Propaganda Secretary. After Amma's demise, I was made Headquarters Secretary and was given various other responsibilities. These posts came to us as we realized the responsibilities given to us and discharged our duties with unstinted loyalty to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and to the party, with the blessings of two great gods and support of party executives and the people. But you have not been given any such post. We are not betrayers; we worked; people praise us. Then, who is the betrayer? They are the betrayers. They want to hijack the party after gaining backdoor entry. They want to topple

this Government. People and party volunteers, I wish to say through this event, will teach them a fitting lesson.

Likewise, they speak of one thing constantly – Sleeper Cells. No one has found such a word earlier. After their entry, such new names have come into vogue. Two great leaders formed this Movement. All those in this Movement are conscientious people wishing the growth of the party and the continuance of this Government. Those with you may be sleeper cells. All those with us are 24 carat gold who have come to occupy positions through work, who are popular through service to people. They have not employed short-cut means like you. Who are all with him; those who are turncoats, jumping from one party to another. Only such people can entertain those thoughts. They can never think good. We have also faced many trials and tribulations. Have we ever talked about sleeper cells? Never. Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Veeramani says the word was formed by a criminal. Because only they face such situations. They all have such a mindset. We need not worry about that because that post can be enjoyed only for a few days. After that, God will take care of it. You know how it will be.

In a similar way, the leader of the opposition is impatient to wipe out this rule and this party. This T.T.V.Dinakaran is joining hands with him. They contested the election with an understanding. What was the result? They wanted to defeat us, but people defeated them. Despite having a ten party alliance, they polled few votes – could not even retain their deposit. I don't want to say more, because this is the centenary function of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. After the event, they will ask whether it is a centenary function or a party meeting. Still, you can come to power only if there is a party. Centenary could be celebrated only if you hold power. They thought there would be no party after Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. But Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma protected the party undergoing many tortures and provided an excellent rule that made the entire Nation turn its gaze towards Tamil Nadu. A death-knell has been sounded for those who dreamt that this party would been shattered and the rule would be toppled after the demise of Amma. In these ten-and-a-half months, the AIADMK has proved that neither this regime will dissolve, nor can it be toppled nor will the party break up.

Earlier, the leader of the opposition was wondering whether this Government would survive in power till the presentation of the Budget and whether it could withstand till the demands for grants were passed. It withstood. That was the end of that rhetoric. Now, a new person has taken that up. One who has won through the hawala formula has started saying that he will topple this Government before the end of March. You should be there to dissolve the Government; let us see where you will be. There is a God. Good thought begets good things; bad thoughts will bring ruin. Whosoever thinks bad, they will come to no good. Because this is not an ordinary Movement. As the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Local Administration Minister Thiru. S.P.Velumani have mentioned earlier, how many people have laid their lives for this Movement, how many have courted imprisonment! It is not in any small measure. Against what odds, they have protected this Movement from 1972 to 2017. Such a Movement that has been preserved is sought to be split and destroyed. It is for God

to deal with them. At present, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is functioning excellently in all spheres.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had stated that Amma two-wheelers would be distributed to educated young women. I wish to give out at this juncture, the good news that a 50 per cent subsidy for purchase of scooter will be given from this birth anniversary of Amma on 24.02.2018. That is, if a scooter costs Rs.50,000/-, Rs.25,000/- will be given as subsidy. In the first phase, one lakh women will be covered.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma used to present Thai Pongal Prize for Tamil Nadu people to celebrate the Pongal with happiness. Amma's Government, I wish to proudly say, has announced that Pongal prize also.

This morning, Anbumani Ramadas has stated that the present Government is in ICU. He is a doctor and it will appear only like that to him. His thoughts will run only on those lines. There is a news that he desires that a corruption-free administration should be set up in 2018. Let the CBI case against him come to a close. One who says he wants to end corruption should disprove the corruption charges against him. It will be proper if he talks about ending corruption after that. Let them first correct themselves; later let them try to correct others.

A news published by the National Crime Records Bureau is proof that law and order is maintained well in Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule. As per that publication, Chennai Metro is the most suitable Metro among the six Metros in India for the safe living of women. The registered crime against women in Delhi is 25.7 per cent, in Mumbai - 6.4 per cent, Kolkata - 3.5 per cent and in Chennai it is 2 per cent. Likewise, the Bureau has declared that Tamil Nadu remains foremost among the large States in India in the provision of safety for women. This is the proof of the extent to which law and order is maintained in Tamil Nadu.

This is a centenary function for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. You are all happy. We will be satisfied if all of you who have come to the function return to your homes safely. So, I request you that you should be careful while travelling back to your homes by vehicle or by walk.

The function has been organized in an excellent way as to be called as the largest attended one in The Nilgiris District. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Local Administration Minister, Lok Sabha Member Thiru.K.R. Arjunan, Nilgiris MP Thiru. C.Gopalakrishnan, Coonoor MLA Thiru.A.Ramu, Rajya Sabha member Thiru. A.K.Selvaraj, former Minister and Board President Thiru. Miller, former Minister Thiru. Buddhi Chandran, the District Collector, Government staff and the people who have turned up for the success of the function. While on my way to this function, an inspiring event to accord a welcome to me was organized at Mettupalayam. My thanks to Rajya Sabha Member Thiru. A.K.Selvaraj and the Town Secretary for organizing that event.

Nandri! Nandri! Vanakkam.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NILGIRIS DISTRICT

1. As the 500 residential quarters of the scheduled tribes of the District –Thodar, Kotar, Irular, Kaattunaicker, Kurumbar and Paniar – are highly damaged, they will be repaired by the Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare at a cost of Rs.5 crore;

2. The Coonoor Municipality Bus Stand will be improved at a cost of Rs.44 lakh;

3. Gudalur bus stand will be expanded at a cost of Rs.4.75 crore to accommodate more buses;

4. New residential quarters will be constructed for Government servants working in this District;

5. Roads in the Udhagamandalam Municipality will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.2.73 crore;

6. A new multi-storey building for parking vehicles will be constructed in the Rose Park with private participation at a cost of Rs.3 crore to improve parking facility in the tourist centre of Ooty;

7. A new office building will be constructed for Ooty Taluk office;

8. The Kodappamund canal in Ooty Municipality will be cleaned;

9. A Zonal centre of the Tamil Nadu Open University will be set up at Kothagiri at a cost of Rs.5 crore to improve the percentage of scheduled tribe students in the District enrolling in higher education.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

10. Four '108 Emergency Ambulances' with high standard medical facilities will be supplied;

11. A special programme for eradication of tuberculosis will be started in The Nilgiris District at an estimate of Rs.1.09 crore;

12. A new storage facility for medicines will be set up in The Nilgiris District at a cost of Rs.67.5 lakh;

13. For the Nilgiris District Government Headquarters Hospital an echocardiogram equipment will be supplied; a geriatric ward will be opened and high class treatment facilities will be provided for patients affected with lung diseases;

14. Tablets to record medical data will be supplied to the 194 village nurses working in the Nilgiris District at a cost of Rs.19.40 lakh;

15.Dialysis, endoscope and modern laboratory accessories will be supplied to Ooty Government hospital and a storage facility for vaccines will be set up there – all at a cost of Rs.64.70 lakh;

16. Comprehensive primary welfare services will be provided at the Coonoor Government hospital at a cost of Rs.64.50 lakh;

17. A modern eye testing and treatment centre will be set up at the Nelaakottai Government hospital at a cost of Rs.16 lakh.

ELECTRICITY

18. New 33/11 KV power sub-stations will be set up at Keradamattam in Kothagiri, Simspark in Coonoor and at Aravenu in Kothagiri at a cost of Rs.24.55 crore;

19. A new 110/11 KV Malarpettu sub-station will be set up in Kadanaadu Panchayat at a cost of Rs.4.55 crore;

20. The 1 x 10 M.V.A transformer in the 110/11 KV Kattapettu sub-station will be upgraded into 2 x 10 M.V.A. transformers at a cost of Rs.1.32 crore;

21. 2 x 10 transformers in the 110/11 Jagadala sub-station will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.1.23 crore;

22. 2 x 10 M.V.A. transformers in the 110/11 KV Ooty sub-station will be upgraded as 2 x 16 M.V.A. transformers at a cost of Rs.2.47 crore;

23. A new computerized fuse off call centre will be set up in the Nilgiris Power Distribution Circle at a cost of Rs.19.50 lakh.

ROAD UPGRADATION

24. Under the Central Road Fund scheme, a stretch of 4.40 kms in Kodumudi Eppanaadu road will be widened and developed at a cost of Rs.4.75 crore;

25. Under the Central Road Fund scheme, a stretch of 6.30 kms of Helen Ellamalai Peria Solai road will be taken up for development at a cost of Rs.5.35 crore.

Ministers, MPs and MLAs, seated in the dais have placed many demands. One of the demands is providing green tea subsidy to small growers of tea in Nilgiris District. The Government will take necessary steps after careful examination.

I am happy to announce that I have issued orders for the grant of a subsidy of Rs.2/- per kg for green tea in the year 2017-2018 in deference to the demands of small growers of tea who are members of co-operative societies. This will entail an additional expenditure of Rs.12 crore.

I am also happy to state that new tenements will be provided to 1,480 beneficiaries in the municipalities of Ooty, Coonoor and Nelliyalam and in Avalanji at a cost of Rs.58.81 crore through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. ■

News In Picture

In connection with the 122nd birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal D.Jayakumar (Fisheries), P. Benjamin (Rural Industries), K. Pandiarajan (Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture Archaeology), Chairperson of the TN Textbook and Educational Science Services Corporation, Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R. Venkatesan I.A.S., Director, Information and Public Relations Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., Additional Directors, Information and Public Relations Department Thiru. S.P. Ezhilazhagan and Thiru. OL. Ravindran offered floral tributes on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, to a portrait of Subash Chandra Bose, kept near his statue on Kamarajar Salai, Chennai, on 23.01.2018.

Prime Minister's intervention sought to protect Tamil Nadu fishermen's rights

D.O. letter dated 04.01.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"At the outset, I thank you for securing the release of 79 Tamil Nadu fishermen from Sri Lankan custody, who have reached Tamil Nadu a few days ago. Unfortunately, the Sri Lankan Navy has apprehended 13 fishermen in 2 boats in the early hours of 04.01.2018. I would like to bring to your kind notice, the recent spate of apprehensions of our fishermen in their traditional fishing waters of Palk Bay in which 84 fishermen in 14 mechanised fishing boats were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in 8 incidents. These fishermen set sail for fishing from various fishing bases in Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai and Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu to eke out their livelihood. The Government of Tamil Nadu is extremely concerned about these frequent apprehensions, prolonged incarceration of our fishermen, detention of their fishing boats for long duration leading to its deterioration.

The fishermen who were apprehended since November, 2017 are still in Sri Lankan jails and their families back home are subjected to abject poverty. On the other hand, in spite of the continued persuasion by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the boats and fishing gear confiscated by Sri Lanka are deteriorating due to prolonged exposure to the inclement weather and lack of maintenance. This is fuelling unrest among the fisherfolk of Tamil Nadu.

You are aware that the constitutional validity of the Indo-SriLankan Agreement of 1974 has been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 by our revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The Government of Tamil Nadu subsequently impleaded itself in this case. Hence, I request the Government of India not to treat the issue of IMBL as settled. The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to take all possible steps with the support of Government of India to diversify trawl fishing in the Palk Bay to deep sea fishing as a way forward to put an end to the sufferings of our fishermen in the Palk Bay.

I strongly urge you to personally intervene and take up the issue of apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen in their traditional waters with the highest authorities in the Sri Lankan Government so as to ensure the safety and security of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu. I also request you to secure the immediate release of the remaining 84 fishermen and 159 fishing boats including the 13 fishermen and their 2 mechanized fishing boats which were apprehended on 04.01.2018, without any further delay".

Chief Minister launches 115 works worth Rs.681.07 crore in Dindigul which gave party first electoral triumph

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. centenary function held at Dindigul on 31.12.2017 (English Translation).

My obeisance to Goddess Idaya Deivam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who was a matchless Mother to the working class, our Family Deity who took upon Herself the sufferings of the Poor and an achiever extolled in history.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal who has delivered the presidential address in the function, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam who has offered excellent ideas in this wonderful function, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha Dr. M.Thambidurai who has delivered a thought-provoking lecture, Hon'ble Minister for Forests Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan who is the son of this District and foundational support for organizing this huge meeting, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R.Venkatesan who has delivered the welcome address, Member

of Parliament Thiru. M. Udayakumar, Vedasandur MLA Thiru. V.P.B. Paramasivam, former Minister Thiru. Natham Viswanathan, Chief Government Whip Thiru. S.Rajendran, Tamil Nadu Government's special representative at New Delhi Thiru. N.Thalavai Sundaram, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. P. Valarmathi, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, Dindigul District Collector Thiru. T.G.Vinay who is to propose a vote of thanks, MPs and MLAs, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Representatives of Co-operative Institutions, party cadres who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, respected Elders, Ladies, Youth, Welfare Assistance Beneficiaries, Media friends, - in the first place, I offer my respects to all of you.

The credit for creating this Dindigul District goes to Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. It has a history of heroism, sacrifice, richness and charity. It is said that this place came to be called Dindigul as the monolithic mountain here resembles a pillow - 'dhindu'. The fort atop the 900-foot Dindigul hill is visible from any part of that region. The double-walled fort is strong enough to withstand artillery attacks. Muthukrishnappa Naicker, a scion of the Madurai Naicker dynasty constructed the Dindigul fort in 1605. Many rulers like Pandyas, Vijayanagar kings, Naickers, Mysore kings and the British waged wars to capture this fort. Dindigul has also been a great military base. The Mysore Wodeyar dynasty, Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan and the British ruled from this Fort. It is said the fort was built by Madurai Naickers for surveillance and prevention of any invasion of armies from Karnataka. Sivagangai queen Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar stayed in this fort for eight years after losing her husband and the kingdom to the British.

Palani Dhandayudhapani Swami temple, one of the six 'Padai Veedus' of Lord Murugan is in this District. With the Periya Nayaki Amman temple, hailed as temple of the town, Balasamudram Varadaraja Perumal temple, Dhaadi Kombu Soundararaja Perumal temple,

Nadupatti Anjaneyar temple, Malleeswarar temple, Gopinathaswamy temple and other famous temples, Begampur Masjid and St. Mariammai church, Dindigul District shines as a spiritual centre.

The District sports many tourist centres also, like Kodaikkanal, the princess of mountains, Dindigul mountain fort, Thirumalaikeni, Nilakottai, Virupakshi Gopala Naicker and Tipu Sultan Manimandapams, and Sirumalai and Pandrimalai. To entertain tourists visiting Kodaikkanal in the summer, the Tamil Nadu Government is organizing every year a Summer Festival in the month of May. The Kurinji flower that blooms once in 12 years here is world renowned.

Dindigul is famous for its locks. They are manufactured in different varieties to the extent that one will think that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. could have sung the song "pala pala ragamaa erukkuthu poottu" ("locks in different varieties are here") with Dindigul locks in mind.

While Vathalagundu in this District is famous for its quality rice, Chinnalapatti is for its fibrous silk sarees. Other important industries in this District are roasting of coffee seed, leather processing, manufacture of leather chappals, steel trunks, cigar rolling, silk industry and manufacture of hundis and safety lockers. There are about 3,500 industrial sheds and more than 50 industries in this District.

Agriculture in Dindigul District thrives on the waters of Vaigai and Mullai river. Major crops are paddy, sugarcane, plantain, vegetables, fruits, pepper, garlic, groundnut, tomato, cardamom, coffee and grapes. From the Oddanchathram market, vegetables are mostly exported to other States. Of the flowers grown in Tamil Nadu, most of them come from Dindigul District and they are sent all over the Country.

Above all, the 'panchamritham' and vibhoothi (sacred ash) from Palani spread the fragrance of spirituality all over the world. The historic account is that Bogar, the famous Siddha saint shaped the Palani Dhandayuthapani Swami

form out of ‘nava paashaanam’ (nine virulent poisons) and later attained ‘samadhi’ (shedding the mortal coil) in that very Palani temple complex. Poet Palapattadai Chokkanadhar who wrote the minor literary work ‘Padmagiri Nadhar Thendral Vidu thoothu’ and the Siddhar Odha Samiyar lived in this District. As this land begot freedom fighters like Thiru. Subramaniya Siva and Virupakshi Gopal Naicker, it remains a land of heroism, sacrifice and charity.

Puranaanuru records that Began, one of the last seven philanthropists of literary fame who provided warmth to a shivering peacock by covering it with his own ‘pattu peethaambaram’ (silken cloth) lived in Thiru Aavinangudi, the abode of Lord Muruga Peruman. The seat of the benign rule of Kumana Vallal was Palani. I feel it is most excellent that the centenary function of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., a contemporaneous philanthropist of our times is to be celebrated in Dindigul District which gained fame due to its philanthropists.

Makkal Thilagam, Ponmana Chemmal Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. founded the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in 1972, fielded Thiru. Maya Thevar in the Dindigul Parliamentry by-election in 1973 on the ‘Two Leaves’ symbol and scored a smashing victory. This victory laid the strong foundation for the growth of Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam which eventually turned into a mighty force as All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Hence, I am proud along with you, that this Dindigul District was the starting point for the growth of AIADMK. I wish to cite an instance to illustrate how deeply the people of Dindigul were attached to Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

The M.S.P. Solai Nadar Memorial Higher Secondary School here, was started about 51 years ago. From the first day of functioning till date, the school broadcasts every morning the song “Oru Thaai Makkal Naamenbom; Ondre Engal Kulamenbom” (‘We are the siblings of the same mother; our clan is one and the same’), that occurs in the film “Ananda Jothi”, starring Makkal Thilagam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. I came to know that many students of this school are today working as high officials in Government service, as excellent doctors, industrialists, intellectuals and above all, as persons of great integrity. I am extremely happy to know the great impact Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.’s songs have had on several generations. The songs of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. are all full of ideas that discipline school children.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. made the poets write lyrics with the message he intended to convey to men, women and children. He had the lines properly set to music so that they reached the people easily. He took the songs to all the people in villages and hamlets through his films. Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had a definite say in all his films on the storyline, dialogue and in the stunt scenes to win over all sections of people. He particularly took great care in the creation of songs. As and when Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.’s film songs were released, the whole of Tamil Nadu would join the beat and enjoy the songs. To that extent Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had registered his songs in the hearts of all Tamils.

They say Moodharignar Rajaji is comparable to Arjuna in waging righteous war; Thanthai Periyar was a man of catholicity; Perarignar

Anna, a serene, ever flowing poem of deep emotions and Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., a University in human form, admired by Universities themselves. Time has revealed that all these descriptions are true. Is he not a University who successfully carries his views to educated youth? In consonance with the golden lines of Bhagavad Geetha - 'What we have brought (into the world) to take back?' - Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. bestowed all his properties and belongings to people and to the mute and deaf at the time of his death and won over even Death by still throbbing in the hearts of crores of people. One who was born as a human, lives today as God. We, the present generation, should convey to the next generation the lofty thoughts and ideals of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. adopted Perarignar Anna as his political Guru as Anna's thoughts, writings, honesty, simplicity and intellectual acumen tallied with those of his own. Makkal Thilagam Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. declared: "The policy of AIADMK is to work for the establishment of a rationalist society bereft of caste and religion, through democratic means". He sowed this seed in the minds of people through his films. The golden lines of one of the songs of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is : 'Arivoottum thanthai, nal vazhkattum thalaivan' ('Father bestows wisdom; the leader shows the correct path'). Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. remained as the father and leader of those lines and guided the Tamil race – Why, for that matter, all the youth of the world. He infused hope in the minds of the youth through his song: "Naalai namadhe! Indha naalum namadhe! Thaai vazhi vandha, thangangal ellaam, ore vazhi nindru, naer vazhi chendraal, naalai namadhae! Kaalangal ennum solaigal malarndhu, kaai kaniyaagum –namakkena valarndhu, naalai namadhae! ('Tomorrow is ours; so too this day! If the Mother's precious off-springs tread the path of honesty in unison, tomorrow is ours! With the garden of Time growing for us to yield fruits, tomorrow is ours!'). Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. made us understand easily how one can rise up to become a leader through a song: "Karunai irundhal vallalaagalaam; kadamai irundhal veeranaagalaam; porumai irundhal manidhanaagalaam – indha moondrum irundhal thalaivanaagalaam". ('Compassion will turn one into a philanthropist; duty consciousness – into a hero; patience- a human; if all the three combine, leadership will dawn').

Our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., easily etched the ideas of the Father of the Literature of Ethics, Deiva Pulavar Tiruvalluvar, and those of world renowned philosophers Confucius and Socrates in the minds of students by presenting them in the form of art and in music. He called upon the youth to work for the Country through the song: "Oorukku uzhaichalae, ezhai urimaiyai madhichale, perumaigal thedivarum, thaane padhavigal naadi varum" ('Honour and position will come on their own if one works for the society and respects the rights of the poor').

You may think it is only the poets who wrote these songs. But we should understand that they wielded only the pen; the ink in them was M.G.R.'s thoughts. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had never conveyed anything to people in a negative way, whether it be dialogue, song or the story. Particularly to the youth, Hon'ble

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. carefully examined what should be told to them so that it became a propelling force for their progress, and conveyed it artistically on screen. He was such a genius.

The titles of his films are good examples for this. Through the titles, he conveyed the story, moral and the principles behind it. The matchless 'Makkal Thalaivar' Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was the only actor who conveyed through the titles of his films, the advice he wanted to give to the younger generation – "Needhikku Thalai Vanangu" ('Bow to Justice'), "Sirithu Vaazhavendum" ('Lead a cheerful life'), "Dharmam Thalai Kaakkum" ('Righteousness Protects'), "Thaai Sollai thattadhae" ('Don't disobey mother'), "Thirudaadhe" ('Don't steal').

He announced a prize for a good title in Tamil to the hindi film 'Pocket maar', starring Dev Anand. Kalaimaamani M. Lakshmanan, who was to write the dialogues for the Tamil version of that picture, suggested the title "Nallathukku Kaalamillai" 'These are not the days for good things'). "This is an apt title for the story. But we should be very careful in choosing the title for the films. If we give the title 'These are not the days for good things', people will think M.G.R. himself has Stated so; why should we do good things. Hence choose another title", said Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Later the film was given the title, 'Thirudaadhe' (Don't steal). Even in giving a title to a film, our leader exhibited social concern and selected it with great care. Our Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. gave advice and taught ethics to the younger generation through many songs like "Unnai arindhaal, nee unnai arindhaal, ulagathil poraadalaam" ('If you know yourself, you can fight in the world'), "Thoongadhe thambi thoongadhe" ('Sleep not, brother, sleep not'), "Thirudaadhe pappaa thirudaadhe" ('Don't steal, child, don't steal'), "Yemaatraadhe yemaaraadhe"('Don't cheat; don't get cheated'), "Adho andha paravai pola vaazhavendum" ('Like that bird yonder, we should live'), "Oru thaai makkal naamenbom" ('Let us say, we are the off-springs from the same womb'), "Naalai ulagai aalavendum, uzhaikkum karangale" ('the working class should rule the world of tomorrow'), "Nalla paerai vaangavendum pillaigalae" ('children! You should earn a good name'), "Odi odi uzhaikkanum" ('We should work ceaselessly') and "Ondre kulam endru paaduvom; oruvane devan endru potruvom" ('Let us sing that we are one community, Let us glorify one god'). It is doubtful whether this world is going to see hereafter a great leader like Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who advised us like our mother, father and our teacher.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. decided to set up an exclusive University for women. Accordingly, the University came up at Kodaikkanal in the year 1984. Participants at that function, included Annai Teresa and the then Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Thiru. Farook Abudullah. Amidst thunderous applause, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar announced at the function that the University would be named after Annai Teresa, one who brought honour to womenkind by her service. Annai Teresa was moved.

Once Perarignar Anna said: 'Only M.G.R. can defeat M.G.R.'. During his days, no one could defeat him either in the cine field or

in politics. He merged with the day-to-day life of the people and in their talk. "Does he think he is an M.G.R." is a common saying if a handsome person goes by or at one who rushes to help others or who demands justice on an issue or engages in charity. To that extent, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. led a life of righteousness that became the benchmark.

Likewise, he portrayed more the roles of indigent persons, labourers and workers in his films. He named the films after those characters – "Oorukku Uzhaippavan" ('One who toils for the Town'), "Enga Veettu Pillai" ('Son of our Household'), "Kaavalkaaran" ('Watchman'), "Pattikaattu Ponnaiah" ('Ponnaiah, the simpleton'), "Padagotti" ('Boatman'), "Meenava Nanban" ('Friend of Fishermen'), " Maattukaara Velan" ('Velan, the Cow-herd), "Vivasaayee" ('The Farmer'), "Vettaikaaran" ('The Hunter'), "Rikshakaaran" (Rikshaw Puller) and in many other films This shows Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's love for labourers.

There was no dichotomy between what Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar sang in his films and his real life. Generally, parents desire their wards to become a graduate, doctor, engineer or a scientist; no one will desire that their son plunges into politics. But parents started thinking that their sons too should enter politics after seeing Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s films, hearing his songs and observing his political activities. There are many who came to politics taking Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. as the guide and are today shining in the political horizon. People saw the films of other actors, enjoyed them and laughed. But with the films of our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., they lived. They tried to fashion their lives after the characters of those films. World leaders and artists were wonder struck at Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s influence over the people.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. has demonstrated that even a commoner can come up and wield power in politics. To cite an instance – the date for Cheyyar by-election was announced. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar asked Thiru. V.Kuppusamy who came for the interview for selection of candidate to contest that election, how much property he owned to be in the fray. Kuppusamy replied: "Anne! I run a tailoring shop. I have sold all my properties for the celebration of the marriage of my daughters. The only asset I now have is your photo hanging in my tailoring shop". Moved by his reply, Ponmana Chemmal announced the candidature of Kuppusamy and said the party would bear his election expenses. Kuppusamy won that election by a margin of 26,000 votes.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. would honour talented persons, whoever it be, without minding their age or economic status. We have to understand Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s broad-mindedness through his appointment of Thiru. Mandolin Srinivas as Court Artiste when he was only 12 years old.

Thiru. Bala Pazhanoor and Tmt. Sathyavani Muthu were made Central Ministers when Thiru. Charan Singh was the Prime Minister. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s reasoning was that if our partymen were in the Central cabinet, the schemes for the State could be demanded and got easily. But there is a

party which joined hands with the Central Government without any principled stand with selfishness as the sole goal. The then Chief Minister who did not visit Delhi for any issue like Cauvery, Katchatheevu, Mullai Periyar and the Sri Lanka problem, made several forays to Delhi and cringed with Departments to get Central Ministership for his son. Judgment is the outcome of skilled argument; but people's verdict is based on truth. Ultimately, people's verdict alone will prevail.

At present, they may have temporarily escaped from the consequences of their 'scientific' corruption. They should realize that this is not the final verdict. People have started to make them feel that. The opponents raise the question, 'Why this centenary function'. This is born out of the fear that any good that may accrue to people out of the centenary celebrations of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. will strengthen Hon'ble Amma's Government several-fold. Our announcements here of the many schemes for the people are just a reply to them.

Today, I have inaugurated 115 works worth Rs.681.07 crore inclusive of the combined water supply scheme with Cauvery river as water resource for the Town Panchayats of Natham, Nilakottai, Ammainaickanur and 1,276 rural habitations, implemented at a cost of Rs.636 crore; laid the foundation for 105 works worth Rs.187.29 crore inclusive of the work for a second Ropeway with modern facilities at Palani at a cost of Rs.71.85 crore for the convenience of devotees; and I will be handing over welfare assistance on behalf of different Departments worth Rs.63.76 crore to 24,521 beneficiaries.

From the date of this Government taking over the reins of administration till date, I have inaugurated across the State 36,286 works worth Rs.15,890.53 crore; laid the foundation stone for 8,300 works costing Rs.6,671.75 crore. Totally, 44,586 works are under implementation at a cost of Rs.22,562.28 crore.

In the last six years, Amma's Government has implemented many things in Dindigul District. I wish to mention a few of them.

As input subsidy to about 1,47,000 small and micro farmers whose crop yield has been affected , about Rs. 74 crore has been distributed; under the 'kudimaramathu' scheme, 44 water bodies have been desilted at a cost of Rs.84.40 lakh; in the current year, 50 more works are to be taken up at a cost of Rs.4.54 crore; under the scheme of free distribution of de-silted sand, 17 lakh cubic metre sand has been taken out from 870 tanks and 17,500 farmers have benefited; co-operative societies' crop loan to about 26,000 small and micro farmers to the tune of Rs.149 crore have been waived; about Rs.156 crore crop loans have been issued to about 16,000 farmers; under the free distribution of laptops to students scheme, laptops worth Rs.143 crore have been given; under the marriage assistance scheme for educated poor women, Rs. 83 crore assistance and about 100.80 kg gold have been given to about 25,000 women; to about 60,000 farmers, about Rs.45 crore assistance has been given under the Chief Minister Uzhavar Padukappu Scheme; the Department of Higher Education has opened an University Constituent College, two Government Arts and Science Colleges and a training and research centre of the

Veterinary Medical Science University; direct bank loan to an extent of about Rs.582.50 crore have been distributed to about 22,000 women self-help groups; under the Hon'ble Chief Minister Green House scheme, about 22,600 houses with solar panels have been constructed at a cost of Rs.52.40 crore and handed over; 11,830 works worth Rs.100.58 crore have been taken up in 3,084 hamlets belonging to 306 Panchayats under the THAI scheme; under the Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana scheme, 31,012 houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.344.14 crore and handed over; under the District rural development agency, 107 village roads have been upgraded at a cost of Rs.52.02 crore (NABARD scheme); 67,327 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs.614.75 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; the Tamil Nadu Generation and Electricity Distribution Corporation is implementing new power projects in six places at a cost of Rs. 54.21 crore; the Highways Department has upgraded 1,346.51km long roads at a cost of Rs.704.63 crore; 80 bridges have been constructed at a cost of Rs.312.23 crore.

From 30.06.2017 till date, I have visited 30 Districts, met people through the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. centenary function and announced welfare schemes worth several crore rupees. I am happy to mention that the centenary functions of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. have been conducted with great exuberance in 30 Districts as per Hon'ble Amma's wish and I met people, announced schemes worth many crores of rupees and continue to implement welfare schemes with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. On 30.06.2017, we first successfully organized the centenary function at Madurai. In the six months thereafter, I am proud to say, Amma's Government was in direct touch with lakhs of people in 30 Districts and presented, in line with our two great leaders, schemes worth many thousands of crores and performed a great feat. I, the Deputy Chief Minister and our Ministers are ceaselessly working for people's welfare so that no file stagnates in the Secretariat. I seek and get funds from the Central Government under various heads and am executing welfare works for the sake of the Tamil Nadu people. The opposition parties oppose this. Only if there is a house, overhead tiles can be changed. Like that, we feel, the Country should be well off. But some people think that they can capture power by finding fault in our welfare works. We are not bothered about their criticism. Those who feign to be loyalists of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are trying to besmirch her soul. That will never happen. It will be better to explain this through a story.

In a mountain village, a gnani (wiseman) lived in an ashram with his cow. People there respected him as God as he was serving them give them wise counsel as well as medical assistance. One day, the gnani attained 'samadhi'. The whole village was plunged in grief. The cow became an orphan. However, people wanted to protect the cow as they felt it was the gnani's soul.

In this situation, a person who had been turned away by the gnani, suddenly came to the ashram and demanded that the ashram and the cow should be handed over to him and argued they belonged to him. This person had stayed in

the ashram with the gnani for some time under the guise of a true disciple, cheated the gnani and lived comfortably but was driven out after his true colours came out. Now, he won the confidence of the people by speaking sweetly to them, saying he was an honest person and a confidante of the gnani. Without realizing his hypocritical action, people decided to hand over the ashram and the cow to him. Disciples who were truly devoted to the gnani requested the people to re-consider their decision as they felt that not good but bad things alone would happen through that cheat. People were confused. The matter went to court. The judge asked that hypocrite: "Under what right are you claiming the cow and the ashram?". He argued: "Whenever the gnani faced the threat of wild animals, it was I who saved him. Fearing me, no animal came near him. Because I had saved the gnani, he survived and these people are claiming him today. All his belongings should come to me".

"Alright", the judge said and asked: "Will both of you share the proceeds coming out of the auctioning of the ashram and the cow?". Lured by the money, the hypocrite agreed. The true loyalists of the gnani did not agree. They thought that the ashram and the cow should be entrusted only to them as they were the true loyalists and that they would serve the people as the gnani did.

The judge came to a conclusion. He made the two parties stand on either side of the cow and asked them to call the cow one after the other. First, it was the turn of the hypocrite but the cow refused to go towards him. When the true loyalists of the gnani called out to the cow, it jumped in happiness and ran towards them.

People who believed the hypocrite realized their mistake. They now felt that the gnani's soul had gone to the side of the true loyalists. The judge also acted accordingly. So, people should not believe those who disguise themselves for the purpose of cheating others and succeed, temporarily, through their acting. Their make-up will melt away shortly; the true face of the hypocrite will come out for the people to see. Righteousness will ultimately triumph. People will realize this gradually.

Just like the saying "my duty is to work only", our work is only for the people. At present we are keen to execute the welfare schemes for the people speedily and effectively.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Amma gave a golden rule to the State. She gave many schemes for the State. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister who spoke earlier referred to it. With a visionary outlook, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made greater allocations for education so as to bring about a revolution, a renaissance in that field. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the only leader to give free of cost, 37 lakh laptops to students to make Tamil Nadu, a State of science. A laptop costs Rs.14,000/- and no other State in the Country has embarked upon this programme. For a Country to grow, education should be excellent and for that necessary facilities should be made available. With this view, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma launched the laptop scheme in Tamil Nadu. Not only that. In the last six years, 40,433 teachers, 4,322 laboratory assistants and 15,169 part-time teachers have been appointed. The filling up of so many teacher's posts has made Tamil Nadu the foremost State in education. Besides, in Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi

Thalaivi Amma's rule, 227 new primary schools have been started so far. One hundred and sixteen primary schools have been upgraded as middle level schools, 829 middle level schools into high schools and 402 high schools as higher secondary schools. The starting of new schools and upgradation of schools has increased the enrollment in educational institutions. At the primary level education, the enrollment has increased to 99.85 per cent; at the middle level education, it has increased to 99.2 per cent In the field of higher education, Tamil Nadu is the premier State. In Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule, 76 arts and science colleges have been started and this has contributed to an increase in the number of persons prosecuting higher education. With the intention that even poor and oppressed class students should have access to higher education at a low cost, 65 arts and science colleges were started even during the times of Amma. Amma's Government, taking a leaf out of that, started this year, 11 Government arts and science colleges, taking the total to 76.

We should also ponder over this. In 2011, when Idaya Deivam took over the Chief Ministership, the percentage of students taking to higher education was 21. Because of the steps taken by Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the field of education and the different schemes she gave to students, this percentage had increased to 44.32 in 2016.

Likewise in the health sector, many special schemes were implemented. In the last six years, 1,20,506 personnel – medical and non-medical – have been appointed. Controlling the dengue disease, Chennai remains the medical city of India.

In the field of agriculture too, Tamil Nadu is foremost. Amma's Government got farmers an insurance amount of Rs.2,538/- each, the highest in the Country, when they were hit by drought.

So too, the 'kudimaramathu' scheme. It was started to enable farmers to remove the silt in the bed of lakes, tanks and anaicuts by themselves for application in their fields. In the first phase, 1,519 lakes were desilted at a cost of Rs.100 crore. The de-silting deepens the lakes, tanks and anaicuts and the de-silted sand is used as fertilizer. Amma's Government brought about this wonderful scheme and helped the farmers. Acceding to the demands of farmers to extend the scheme, I wish to State that Government will take steps to repair 2,065 more lakes at a cost of Rs.300 crore.

Amma's Government has allotted Rs.1,000 crore for a three-year scheme to construct check dams across Odais and rivers so as to conserve rain water during the monsoon season from draining wastefully into the sea. Through these check dams, rain water gets stored and this in turn raises the ground-water level. Enough water is made available for agriculture and it also meets the demand for drinking water. I am proud to State that Amma's Government has brought about this wonderful scheme.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Amma's Government paid greater attention to agriculture resulting in Tamil Nadu bagging the Krishi Karman award four times in the last five years. In the interest of the coconut farmers, Government has issued orders permitting 'neera' tapping from coconut trees.

I am proud to say that the credit of making Tamil Nadu a power-cut free State, goes to Amma. A Country's growth depends on

industries. Industrial development is imperative for economic growth. For that, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma successfully conducted in Chennai a global investors' meet on September 9 and 10, 2013; 98 memoranda of understanding of a total value of Rs.2,42,160 crore were signed in that meet. In these 98 MoUs, 61 schemes with an investment of Rs.62,838 crore are under various stages of implementation. So far, more than 71,000 persons have been employed, directly or indirectly. To conduct the second global investors' meet in 2018, Rs.73 crore has been allotted and arrangements are being made. At this juncture, I wish to inform that the Central Government has announced the setting up of an industrial township in Tamil Nadu with Japanese aid.

The Recruitment Board for Personnel in Uniform has recruited 1.18 lakh persons from 1991. So all schemes are being implemented in Tamil Nadu.

M.K.Stalin has been accusing the All India Anna DMK of functioning as a branch of the BJP. It is not known what is the basis for his charge. He may be like that. Like a chameleon, he may form a Front, changing his policies as the situation demands. We are not like that. First, they struck an alliance with the BJP, then with the Congress. That is DMK. If there is a principled party in the whole of India, it is AIADMK. Policies are not sacrificed for the sake of power. But the DMK, unmindful of policies, will strike an alliance with any party for the sake of the betterment of one family and for that family's members to come to power. Hence, his averment that AIADMK is functioning as a branch of BJP deserves to be dismissed. I wish to remind him that AIADMK is in power today on its own. They shared power at the Centre for nearly 14 years. But what schemes did they bring to Tamil Nadu. As far as I am concerned, we have a cordial relationship with the Centre to get necessary funds at different stages. We can get schemes only with the co-operation of the Centre. Then only Tamil Nadu can develop.

This is a centenary function for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Your safe return, after this function, to your homes alone will satisfy us. So be careful while travelling by vehicle or going by walk. I convey my hearty new year greetings to all of you.

I convey my grateful thanks to Hon'ble Forest Minister Thiru. Dindigul Sreenivasan, son of this District who was the basis for the conduct of this function in an excellent manner, and MPs, MLAs, former Ministers, former MPs, MLAs, Union and Town Secretaries of the party, District Collector, Government staff who stood by him and all the good hearts who graced this function with their presence.

Yesterday was ours; Today is ours; Tomorrow also will be ours.

Vazhga Anna Namam, Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh, Thodarga Honourable Amma's rule.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DINDIGUL DISTRICT:

1. A new revenue division with Gujiliampaarai as headquarters will be formed by dividing Vedasandur revenue division;

2. Detailed survey works will be taken up for extending the Dindigul Cauvery Combined Water Supply scheme to Dindigul Municipal Corporation, 7 Town Panchayats and 816 rural habitations;

3. Drainage canals will be set up in Vedasandur Town Panchayat at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore. The work will be taken up after getting allotments under the capital subsidy fund for the year 2018-2019;

4. New livestock branch units will be set up in R. Pillamnaickenpatti in Gujiliamparai Union and in Puthur in Vadamadurai Union.

5. A new Siddha Medical College with an intake of 60 students will be set up in Palani in view of the greater demand for the study of siddha medicine;

6. A new primary health centre will be set up in Ranganathapuram in Vedasandur Union;

7. Ultra modern accessories costing Rs.11.68 crore will be supplied to Dindigul District Government Headquarters Hospital under the JICA scheme;

8. A medical post-graduate course – Diplomate of National Board (DNB) - will be started at the Dindigul District Government Headquarters Hospital at a cost of Rs.28.5 crore and required infrastructure facilities will be created;

9. A new Village Nurse Training School will be set up at Dindigul District Kasturiba hospital at a cost of Rs. 1 crore;

10. Scheme for protection of Adolescents Safety and expansion of storage facility for medicines will be taken up at a cost of Rs.82.5 lakh;

11. Comprehensive primary welfare services will be provided in the Taluks of Nilakottai and Vadamadurai;

12. A modern eye testing and treatment centre will be started at the Ammaianaickanoor Community Health Centre;

13. CT Scan will be installed at Kodaikkanal Government Hospital;

14. Modern medical appliances will be supplied to Palani Government Hospital;

15. A dialysis equipment, costing Rs.8.22 lakh will be supplied to Athur Government hospital;

16. The Kaattu Periakulam Anaicut across Thirumanimuthaaru in Natham village will be re-constructed at a cost of Rs.3 crore;

17. The Paalootthukulam Anaicut across Paalaaru in Kosukurichi village, Natham Taluk will be re-constructed at a cost of Rs.2.72 crore;

18. A check dam will be constructed across Nanganjiyar river in Virupakshi village, Oddanchathiram Taluk at a cost of Rs.1.33 crore;

19. A check dam will be constructed across Vaigai river at the point 35.05 km in Siddhargalnatham village, Nilakottai Taluk at a cost of Rs.12.5 crore;

20. A check dam will be constructed across Manjalaaru near Uchapatti in Kunnavarayankottai village, Nilakottai Taluk at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore;

21. A check dam will be constructed across Nedukai Manjalaaru in Kanavaipatti village, Nilakottai Taluk;

22. A check dam will be constructed across Thirumanimuthaaru near Mulayur village, Natham Taluk;

23. A check dam will be constructed across Thirumanimutttharu, down stream Kaattu Periyakulam Anaicut near Punnappatti village, Natham Taluk;

24. A check dam will be constructed across Marudha Nadhi near Rowthar garden in Konnampatti village, Nilakottai Taluk;

25. A check dam will be constructed across Nanganjiyar river in Javvadhupatti village, Oddanchathiram Taluk;

26. A check dam will be constructed across Kudaganaaru in Seeval Saragu village near Velagoundanpatti, Athur Taluk;

27. A check dam will be constructed across Santhaanavardhini river near Velambadi habitation in Maarambadi village, Vedasandur Taluk;

28. A culvert will be constructed on Morapatti – Chithuvarpatti road;

29. A bridge will be constructed on Vadamadurai-Velayuthampalayam Sengurichi road;

30. A bridge will be constructed on Shanmugampaarai road that branches off from Palani-Kozhumum road and goes via Chinnagandhipuram;

31. A bridge will be constructed on the Ambilikkai – Kuttiluppai road;

32. A bridge will be constructed on Azhagampatti road on the way to Sakkayanaickanur-Jangilpatti;

33. A bridge will be constructed on the Kallimandayam - Odaipatti road at a cost of Rs. 3 crore;

34. A bridge will be constructed on Ayyalur-Aalampatti road at the point 7/2 KM at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore;

35. A limited subway will be constructed on the Dindigul-Gujiliyampaarai – Karur road at a cost of Rs.16.18 crore to replace the railway level crossing no.6;

36. A by-pass road for Dindigul town will be laid for a length of 19.25 KM; a detailed project report has been prepared for this; shortly steps will be taken for acquisition of land for this project;

37. A railway over bridge will be constructed on the Palani-Dharapuram road to replace railway level crossing No. 63 between Udumalpet railway stations;

38. New offices for Natham assistant engineer and a collection centre for payment of electricity charges in the Dindigul Electricity Distribution Circle;

39. New power sub-stations will be set up at Chinnaluppai, Chinnalampatti and Lakshmanapatti in Dindigul Electricity Distribution Circle;

40. High power transformers will be set up at sub-stations at Vaagarai, Kovilur, Eriyodu, Ayyalur, Ramarajapuram and Ayyampalayam;

41. The capacity of Siddhargal Natham power sub-station will be enhanced at a cost of Rs.2.49 crore;

42. A computerized fuse-off call centre will be set up in Dindigul Electricity Distribution Circle.

There is an important long-standing demand from the people for the premature release of lifers who have served 10 years of their term in prison, as a special gesture in connection with the celebrations of the centenary of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. I am happy to inform that Amma's Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, will take steps to grant the remission of sentence to such prisoners on humanitarian grounds, subject to the provisions of law and prison rules and release them prematurely.

'Exempt Tamil Nadu fireworks industry from Environmental Rules'

D.O. letter dated 17.01.2018 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"I wish to bring to your kind notice that about 850 fireworks manufacturing units are functioning in Tamil Nadu. These units are mostly located in Virudhunagar District and contribute 90% of the fireworks produced in the Country. They provide employment to more than 8 lakh people mostly women, directly or indirectly. All the manufacturers observe very high standards of safety and have evolved as a well regulated Industry over a period of time.

However, recently the industry is facing a major setback, due to filing of Public Interest Litigations by a few NGOs and individuals before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to ban manufacture, sale and use of fireworks in any form. The manufacturers of fireworks have suffered very severe financial losses and there has also been loss of employment due to imposition of ban on sale of fireworks in NCR region during the 2017 Diwali season.

Even though the ban was subsequently lifted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, few more Public Interest Litigations have been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the same have been admitted. This has created fear and uncertainty in the minds of the firework manufacturers leading to disruption of production as they are unsure about the outcome of the pending Public Interest Litigations.

As you will appreciate, use of fireworks during Diwali and many other religious and cultural festivals is deeply rooted in our tradition. Even in the developed Countries like U.S.A., Singapore, Japan, Australia and the EU nations allow massive display of fireworks during celebration of religious, cultural and National events such as Christmas, New Year, Independence day, etc. The importance of display of fireworks during the National and cultural events in USA can be derived from the fact that the Supreme Court of USA has gone on record to pronounce, that as per the Second Amendment of the Constitution of USA, usage of fireworks during celebrations of cultural events is a right of all Americans, as it symbolises display of civic pride and patriotism.

Further, with the improvement in chemical technology, better quality fireworks which leads to lesser pollution are constantly being evolved.

As per rule 3(b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, only when the level of any of the pollutants mentioned in the table in Schedule VII goes beyond the prescribed limit in the said table for two consecutive days shall the alarm bells ring and continuous monitoring and further investigation instituted. In the case of fire works, almost all reported scientific data has revealed reversing of the level of pollution

to the level prior to the use of fireworks, within 24 hours.

I have been further informed that the manufacturers of fireworks in Tamil Nadu use nitrate salts for its production, which is much less polluting than chloride salts, which are used extensively in fireworks manufactured in other parts of the world. Further, none of the firework manufacturers in Tamil Nadu are using the chemicals prohibited under various Pollution Control Rules or by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The manufacturers of fireworks in Tamil Nadu are using safe and environment friendly products and there are no recorded long term effect on the environment. Since the use of fireworks is attached to our socio- cultural traditions, any ban on production, sale and use of the same will adversely affect the sentiments of the people of India. It will also affect the livelihood of 8 lakh people and push them further into poverty.

I, therefore, urge you to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to carryout necessary amendment to Rule 3 (b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and exempt the fireworks manufacturing industry from various provisions of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, thereby saving the livelihood of 8 lakh families dependent on fireworks industry".

News In Picture

Thiru. Vladimir Maric, Ambassador of Serb Republic paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Secretariat on 24.01.2018.

Unfolding schemes for Ramnad District,Chief Minister assures 'hardworking fisherfolk' of all support from Government

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M.G.R. Centenary celebrations at Ramanathapuram District on 25.11.2017 (English translation).

I bow to God Puratchi Thalaivi Amma before beginning my address.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal, who presided over the Dr.M.G.R. Centenary celebration function and gave the presidential address,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, who gave a piece of advice to the party cadres stressing the need for remaining united in the party;

Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Dr.M.Manikandan, the son of the soil, who had the blessings of Hon'ble Amma and who had made excellent arrangements for the function making one wonder whether it is a public meeting or a conference; Hon'ble Ministers, Secretary of the Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru. R.Venkatesan, who welcomed the gathering, Thiru. A.Anwar Raja, Ramanathapuram M.P., Deputy Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V. Jayaraman, Chief Government Whip, Thiru. S.Rajendran, Special Representative to the Government of Tamil Nadu at New Delhi Thiru. N.Thalavai Sundaram, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbooks and Educational Services Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, and Ramanathapuram District

Collector Dr.S.Natarajan, former Ministers, office-bearers of the party headquarters, MPs and MLAs, former MPs and MLAs representatives of co-operative bodies and former representatives of local bodies, party volunteers, who are the aerial roots of the party, Respected elders and ladies, beneficiaries of Government grants, friends from the print and visual media, at the outset I express my hearty welcome to all of you.

Though the beautiful coastal District Ramanathapuram District is situated at the tip of South Tamil Nadu, it occupies primary position by its reputation.

The bridge which was set up by Lord Rama to retrieve Goddess Sita from Sri Lanka, is known as Sethu Bridge. The kings who ruled the cities around this Sethu Bridge and protected the sea shore, were called Sethu Kings.

The place ruled by Sethu Kings was known as Sethu Nadu or Rama Nadu, which was later called as Ramanathapuram Seemai and subsequently as Ramanathapuram.

Even 1,100 years ago, both Pandya kings and Sethupathi kings were known for their water management by linking the rivers.

There are thousands of Ooranis, Kanmais, Small Tanks, Ponds, Kuttangal, and Yenthalgal in the District, which were used by people to store water from Vaigai River and rain water to be utilized for drinking and agricultural operations.

Sethupathi Kings of Ramnad considered religion and Tamil as their two eyes. The Saivite centres, Rameswaram, Uthirakosamangai and Thiruvadanai, which are mentioned in Thevaram, are situated in this District and are spreading the religious fragrance in this District.

The District is known to the whole world through Ramanathaswami Temple. The world renowned pillars of the temple are an excellent example of the architectural excellence of Tamil sculptures. The temple attracts devotees from all over the world as it combines both Saivam and Vaishnavam.

The Navapaashana Navagraha Temple at Devipattinam, Dhanushkodi, where Lord Rama had sacred bath, Erwadi Dharga, Oriyur St. Arulandar Church, Kothandaramar Temple, Panchamuga Anjaneyar Temple, and Uppur are some of the worshipping places in the District that add fame to the District.

To make known the communal amity in the District to others, Hindus, Muslims and Christians co-exist peacefully with their many places of worship in the District.

It is of credit to us to know that Ramanathapuram King Bhaskara Sethupathi of the District was instrumental in sending Swami Vivekanandar to Chicago in the US by financing his trip. Apart from financing Swami Vivekananda, who went as an ordinary monk to Chicago but returned as a saint, the King also appealed to Swami Vivekananda to put his foot on his head before it touched the earth. So saying, he sat on the ground. The place where the King welcomed Vivekananda and sat is known as Kuthukkal near Pamban.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up a memorial for Vivekananda at that place and it is now a tourist centre. This place was ruled in different times by Pandyas, Cholas, Vijayanagara Kings, Sethupathis, Naickers, Marathas, Nizams, and Britishers.

Ramanathapuram District is a symbol for hard work and labour. Though this District is in a rain shadow region and does not receive sufficient rains, hard-working people of the District are able to cultivate paddy, chilli, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane and ragi.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar in one of his songs mentioned fishermen as those who are born on earth but are forced to live in the sea for their livelihood. The fishermen of this District by their hard work are able to procure more than one lakh tonne of fish every year and are creating records.

I am proud to say that 26 per cent of the State's production of fishes is from this District. Not only that, the District has the distinction of recording Rs. 3,600 crore export business every year.

To give impetus to fishermen, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government, has

been giving subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakh for constructing fishing boats for deep sea fishing.

The first sea bridge of the Country - Pamban Bridge - is popularly known as Queen of the Indian Bridges. Freedom fighter Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, who considered religion and politics as his two eyes, was born in this District. Philanthropist Seethakathi, who was known for his great donation even after his death through the saying, ‘Seththum Koduthaan Seethakathi’, was also born in this soil. Saint Thayumanavar is said to have spent his last days of his life in Ramanathapuram District.

For administrative reasons, the headquarters of Ramanathapuram District was in Madurai. Only in the year 1985, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar shifted the District headquarters to Ramanathapuram. Sri Ramanatha Swami Temple, is one among the 12 ‘Jothir Lingams’ in the Country. It has been a traditional belief that Lord Rama had the darshan of the Lord here to cleanse himself from the sin of killing Ravana.

Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, who was born in a poor family in this District became the Missile Man of the Country and subsequently rose to the position of President. To popularize his name throughout the world, a memorial was constructed at his birth place Peikarumbu by the Central Government and declared open by the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

For Dr.Kalam’s memorial, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma donated 130 acres of land. The soil of the District turned sacred due to Lord Sri Ramachandra. Similarly due to the efforts of Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., District headquarters was shifted to Ramanathapuram after functioning in Madurai for over 75 years.

I feel happy and elated to organize the Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar’s celebrations in this District, which bears the name of epic hero Rama and Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.Ramachandran, the man who excelled both in cinema and politics during his life time.

According to Muslim religion, Musa Nabi had the capacity to talk to God directly. Once it is said that he appealed to God that to be allowed to sit near Him since he had the privilege of talking to him directly. For this, the God said that there was no need for it as it was sufficient if he remained with good people. Then Musa asked God how to find good people. For which the God said that those who sacrificed for others were good people.

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar is one among the good men indicated by the Lord. By donating liberally for the needy people, he is called the eighth Vallal (philanthropist). The entire State and the people of Tamil Nadu were behind Puratchi Thalaivar when he started the AIADMK, particularly the fishermen. You (people) had proved on several occasions that you were always behind the Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I would like to mention here one incident on how the students of those days gauged Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.’s philanthropy. When Perarignar Anna was the Chief Minister, he wanted to induct Puratchi Thalaivar into his Cabinet as he was instrumental for the party’s victory in the election.

But Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was not ready to leave the cine field. However, Anna succeeded in making him accept the post of chairman of Small Savings and the Puratchi Thalaivar successfully carried out the activities of the post. At that time, he conducted a State-level elocution competition for college students. At the prize distribution function, chaired by the Puratchi Thalaivar, the student who won the first prize was asked to speak on behalf of the participants. The student, during his course of the speech, said that it was a paradox that Puratchi Thalaivar was appointed as the head of Small Savings as Puratchi Thalaivar was known for his extravagance. The audience felt that the boy had overstepped his limit. Puratchi Thalaivar in his speech replied to the student. He said Saint Arunagirinathar, who had once frittered away his life was fit to advice about life. Similarly, only a spendthrift like him knew the value of savings. So he was the most competent person to head the small savings Department, said Puratchi Thalaivar amidst thunderous applause from the audience. Thus Puratchi Thalaivar had cleared the doubts of the student at the meeting itself.

We have seen the love and affection of people towards Puratchi Thalaivar on many occasions. I cannot forget how thousands of people thronged the City during his last journey. Thousands of poor women, physically challenged people and elders from different parts of the State reached the City to pay their last respects to Puratchi Thalaivar. They bitterly wept as if they had lost their eldest son of their family and they felt that they had become orphans after the demise of Puratchi Thalaivar.

Many made a wrong calculation that after the demise of Puratchi Thalaivar, the political life of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma would come to an end. They thought that after the death of Puratchi Thalaivar no one in the party had the capacity to stand against them. They believed that the AIADMK had no future and many defected to the rival camp. But what happened after that. Nobody expected that the AIADMK, like a phoenix bird, would come up again under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who took a 'viswarupam' in politics.

'Our Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the only woman who successfully entered and ruled the State for many years in the world of male-dominated politics. We, her followers who have come after her, are ready to face any challenges. Why I am saying this here is that those who are not competent to talk about fishermen are now talking about fishermen and trying to project themselves as good men. Nobody can forget their treachery to fishermen. They are under the impression that fishermen will forget the past, and that is why they are making baseless allegations against us. I would like to give reply to their allegations.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made many sincere efforts to solve the Katchateevu issue. But it was due to careless attitude of the previous regime that Katchatheevu was lost. Before handing over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka, the then Central Government conducted two advisory meetings. The then DMK Government in the State could have utilized the opportunity to prevent the 'gift' of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. At least the then Government could have brought to the notice of the people that the Central Government had an idea of giving away

Katchatheevu. But the then Government failed to do these two things and thereby betrayed the fishermen of the State.

I would like to ask whether the then DMK Government was not aware of the Centre's move to hand over Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka. If so, why had it not mobilized people and organized agitations against the Centre's move. The then State Government had not done anything and it had not expressed its protest to the Centre. But it conducted a drama by adopting a resolution in the Assembly when everything was over. The drama which was started at that time is now continuing, by both father and son.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma tried to correct the mistakes of the previous Government after she came to power in 1991. She adopted many resolutions and in 2008 as the General Secretary of the AIADMK, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma filed a case in the Supreme Court. At that time, the then Government led by the Congress at the Centre with the support of the DMK filed a petition for dismissing the petition of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. You should not forget their betrayal of the fishermen. Due to their grave mistake, our fishermen are being attacked and harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy and incarcerated in prisons now. The ordeal has become a regular feature for our fishermen.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who considered the sufferings of fishermen as her own, repeatedly expressed the State Government's opposition and serious concern to the Central Government and the Sri Lanka Government. The present Government, which has the blessings of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, follows the same attitude. In this connection, the Government participated in meetings organized by the Central Government on 27.02.2017, 17.03.2017 and 07.04.2017 and stressed the need for retrieving Katchatheevu. I am confident that soon we will find a solution for the Katchatheevu issue. The present Government will definitely come to the rescue of fishermen whenever they are in distress.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had extolled the people of the District for their managerial attitude, friendliness and their agriculture practice. During Puratchi Thalaivi's regime, the southern portion of the Second corridor of the famous Ramanathaswami temple, which was closed for over 125 years, was repaired. In 1984, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up at her own expense, the Annai Nutrition Centre at Devipattinam in memory of her mother and participated in the lunch at the centre along with kids. This showed Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's special consideration for the District. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented integrated de-silting programme at a cost of Rs.75 crore and desalination plant to convert sea water into drinking water at a cost of Rs.10 crore for the benefit of the people of the District.

I am of the view that both Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are sleeping in sandalwood boxes near Bay of Bengal just to hear the voices of fishermen.

We are participating in the centenary celebrations organized by the people of the District for their favoured son, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar.

Our love towards the people of Ramanathapuram District is similar to that

of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

On this happy occasion, I inaugurated schemes worth Rs.81 crore, under District development agency, including schemes worth Rs.22.35 crore, a cold storage and a drying yard constructed at a cost of Rs. 10 crore.

On behalf of the Revenue Department, I had laid the foundation stone for the Tahsildar office building at Keezhakarai, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.2.60 crore. On behalf of various Departments, I am going to distribute welfare assistance worth Rs. 161.20 crore to 26,849 beneficiaries.

Drought-resistant trees such as hill vembu, savukku and thailam, which grow well in the District are procured by the Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Board Ltd., for Rs. 2,700/- per ton. I am happy to announce that the procurement price will be increased to Rs.3,750/- per ton, considering the severe drought in the District during previous years. Besides, from next year onwards, I have issued orders for increasing the minimum support price for the farmers who grow Thailam Trees to Rs. 4,000/- per ton.

From the time of this Government assuming responsibility till date, I have inaugurated 35,752 works costing Rs.14,427.84 crore, laid foundation stones for 7,129 works worth Rs.4,881.05 crore. Totally 42,880 works are being implemented at a cost of Rs.19,308.59 crore.

I would like to point out some of the schemes implemented exclusively for the Ramanathapuram District by this Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government in the last six years. A drought relief of Rs.146.28 crore was distributed for 1,40,00 farmers, whose yields had been affected. Under the scheme of free distribution of de-silted sand to farmers at no cost about 51 lakh cubic feet of sand collected from 526 water bodies had been distributed benefitting 36,162 farmers. Under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, about 1.26 lakh farmers were insured and Rs.446.60 crore has been credited in farmers' bank account.

About 1.15 lakh fishermen were given Rs.158 crore as assistance during the fishing ban period.

The value added tax for gadgets for fishing has been completely withdrawn which resulted in cost cutting of Rs.148 crore for the fishermen. Two Government Arts and Science Colleges have been opened at a cost of Rs.14.70 crore. Under the Prime Minister's housing scheme, 18,280 houses have been built at a cost of Rs.248 crore. On behalf of the Highways Department, roads to a length of 1,009.82 km have been improved at a cost of Rs.530.09 crore. On behalf of the PWD, dams have been constructed at a cost of Rs.78 crore at Kamuthakudi, Thelichathanallur, Valasai and Kunappanendal to provide irrigation to 20,876 hectares from 100 kanmais. Under the 'Kudimaramathu'scheme, 58 works are to be executed at a cost of Rs.20.11 crore.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma declared open 648 MW solar power plant, constructed with an investment of Rs.4,536 crore in the District on 21.09.2016.

Green Rameswaram scheme was inaugurated by former President on 28.01.2014 in a grand manner. Under the scheme in Rameswaram island, schemes like water management, waste management, land development and beautification and non-conventional energy are undertaken. Under the scheme, old sacred ponds are being renovated and in Arichalmunai village more than one lakh trees are being planted. The three-year scheme of Green Rameswaram was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 27.07.2017.

To attract industrial investments, this Amma Government has been taking various steps. It has simplified the law and inaugurated the net-based single window scheme for the convenience of new entrepreneurs. Due to this, the State is attracting more investments and is progressing on the path of development.

Recently, a multi-national company by name, Jones Lang LaSalle, in its report has said that Tamil Nadu was in the forefront in attracting new investments and this will open employment opportunities to several thousands of people. This news was published in the Times of India daily on 23.11.2017.

But the Opposition parties in the State are trying to create an impression as if nothing is happening in the State. But you (the people) know the real position.

When I say this I am reminded of a story.

In a forest there were rabbits and tortoises. The rabbits were playing happily running here and there. The tortoises were also playing with them. On seeing the tortoises moving very slow, the rabbits advised them that the shell on their back was a hindrance to their fast movement. If they removed the shells, then they could also run and move fast. The tortoises without knowing that the shells were their protecting shield removed them. Then they were able to run freely. While they were playing, a hunter who saw the tortoise thought that they were a different animal and hunted them with their spears. In the absence of their protecting shields, the tortoises died. Similarly during their rule, the Opposition party implemented schemes which were not beneficial to people like a tortoise without its shell. Due to this, the people were subjected to lot of suffering.

During her rule, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented numerous welfare schemes for the benefit of people. Because of that, today I am more happy than before. So far, we have conducted Puratchi Thalaivar Centenary celebrations in 25 Districts. All those functions were conducted in a grand manner. Now we are celebrating the centenary celebrations in the 26th District, namely in Ramanathapuram District. But the celebration here is a special one. Till the last celebrations, the party did not have the two leaves symbol and it was banned by the Election Commission. Hon'ble Minister R.Manikandan, who spoke before me, said that the District was a lucky District both for Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. This has been proved now, as the two leaves symbol has been allotted to us. When we organized functions in 25 Districts we could not use the two leaves symbol due to the ban. Now we are allowed to use the symbol. I could see the symbol all over my way and the volunteers were found happily waving the symbol. Now, none can prevent us from

using the symbol. The symbol was created by Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R. and safeguarded by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We have got the two leaves symbol, which is the lifeline of 1.5 crore AIADMK workers. There are some people who are saying that they are least bothered about the loss of the symbol. If it is so, why should they organize agitations? They planned to freeze the symbol and destroy the party with the connivance of our opponents. But their attempt did not succeed. With the blessings of the God and Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma we got back our symbol. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma while speaking in the Assembly said that the AIADMK would continue to rule the State even after her and for the next hundred years. To justify her statement, the party has got back its symbol. This is a victory for justice and Dharma. Soon the by-election for the R.K.Nagar Assembly is to be held. As R.K.Nagar is the fort of the AIADMK, we will prove the strength of the two leaves in the by-election. We will implement the ideals of our two great leaders. We will prove in the by-election that the AIADMK would continue to rule the State for the years to come. Not only in this by-election, in the coming local body elections and Parliament elections or in any future election, the AIADMK will romp home with the hard work of 1.5 crore party volunteers and the support of the public. We will continue to march in the path of victory.

The opposition leader and other opposition parties charge that law and order has failed in the State. I ask them where the law and order deteriorated in the State. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the Country which is remaining as the oasis of peace. Due to proper administration, the law and order situation is maintained in the State. People are living peacefully. I am confident to say that law and order is maintained well in the State.

In agriculture, the State is creating many records. It continued to remain in number one position in agriculture production. It has secured many National Awards in the last six years.

Due to amicable relationship with the Centre, Hon'ble Central Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Thiru. Nitin Gadkari during his recent visit to the State agreed to allot Rs.one lakh crore to the State for its various projects. During the Union Minister's visit, we also submitted memorandum containing various demands of the State and the Hon'ble Minister agreed to consider them favourably. Today the opposition parties in the State are charging that the State is taking 'Kaavadi' to the Centre. They charge that we are submissive to the Central Government. I would like to ask them what they did for the State when they were part of the Central Government for about 14 years. DMK was part of the Central Government led by the Congress and also in the Government headed by the BJP. They did not bring any worthwhile scheme to Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalavi Amma Government has taken steps for improving the standard of roads and for widening them. The Central Government has allotted Rs.900 crore for Tuticorin Port expansion. Similarly, the Centre has given an assurance for laying an express lane between Chennai and Bengaluru at a cost a cost of Rs. 20,000 crore. They have also promised to sanction sufficient funds for protecting and improving water bodies in the State. All these schemes are possible due to congenial relationship existing between the State and the Central Governments. I would like to inform the opposition that unlike you,

we do not use power for our selfish ends. We utilize it for the welfare of the people.

The State Government is revolutionizing education in the State. Never before has such a heavy allotment been made for education. The Government in the last six years distributed about 37 lakh laptops at no cost to students and paved the way for scientific education of students. In another 10 years, only in Tamil Nadu there will be students, who are trained in scientific education. Even in advanced Countries laptops are not given free to students. But the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a view to impart scientific education to poor students introduced the distribution of laptop, each costing Rs. 14,000/- and distributed them to about 37 lakh students at no cost. This showed how the State Government is functioning here. Students are our future rulers. If a society is to be developed it is possible only through education. Similarly Puratchi Thalaivi Amma , with a view to providing higher education for students belonging to the poor strata of society, declared open 65 Arts and Science Colleges in the State. The present Government, which is following the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma opened 11 Arts and Science Colleges in the State. Amma's Government is the only Government in the Country which has given 76 Arts and Science Colleges to provide higher education to poor people. The present Government is implementing various schemes for the people. Today, you have submitted many demands to me. Based on that I would like to announce a number of schemes for the State.

This function is organized for celebrating the centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. So women, children, volunteers and general public who have come for the function should reach home safely. I appeal to drivers of various vehicles to help the passengers reach home safely. I congratulate those who had made arrangements for successfully organizing the function. I thank the District Collector and his team of officers for successfully conducting the function. Similarly, I thank Ramanathapuram Raja for associating with the function.

Yesterday is ours, today is ours and tomorrow will also be ours.

Vazhga Anna Namam, Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh and Thodargaa Hon'ble Amma Government.

Special announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Ramanathapuram District.

1. Ramanathapuram Municipality will be upgraded as Special Grade Municipality by merging Pattinam Kaththaan, Chakkarakottai, Achuthanvayal and Surankottai.

2. A new revenue division will be created with R.S.Mangalam as headquarters.

3. First-grade cleaning centres will be set up for chilli crop at the regulated markets of Paramakudi, Mudukalathur and Kamudi with all facilities.

4. Computer facilities and sorting rooms will be linked to the Paramakudi Regulated Market, at a cost of Rs.1.33 crore from the funds of the National Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of the Central Government and NABARD Bank for the benefit of chilli and cotton farmers under the National Agriculture Market Scheme.

5. R.O drinking water cleaning units will be set up at 50 points in places where the salt content in groundwater is high at a cost of Rs. 7.75 crore under the Rural Development Department.

6. A new veterinary Centre will be set up at Karkaathagudi village in R.S.Mangalam Panchayat Union.

7. New power sub-stations will be set up at Pattanam Kathan, Uppur, and Keezhakarai in Ramanathapuram District.

8. New power changers will be installed at six sub-stations in Mudukalathur, Abiramam, Kamudi, Kadaladi, Paramakudi and Perungulam.

9. A Primary Health Centre will be set up at Vedalai in Mandapam Panchayat Union.

10. Accident injuries treatment centre and allied medical wards will be set up at the Ramanathapuram District headquarters hospital, for procuring MRI Scan, C.T.Scan, Dialysis and Eco-Cardiogram and for the post-graduate studies.

11. A modern operation theatre with latest medical equipment will be set up at Paramakudi Government hospital.

12. A new Ophthalmic centre will be set up at the Devipattinam Government Hospital.

13. By-pass roads will be set up in Parthibanur, Kamudi and Mudukalathur towns.

14. A railway over-bridge will be constructed between Ramanathapuram and Uchipuli railways stations, on the Ramanathapuram-Keezhakarai Road.

15. A bridge will be constructed on the Puthanendal- Erwadi Road.

16. A bridge will be constructed on the Ramanathapuram- Emaneswaram to P.Kodikulam Road.

17. A bridge on the Mudukalathur – Uthirakosamangai Road.

18. A bridge on the Natham-Nediyamanickam Road.

19. 56 km length of road out of 120 km of the Nagoor -Nagapattinam-Ramanathapuram-Thoothukudi East Coast Road has been upgraded at a cost of Rs.19.04 crore under OPRC scheme. Work is going on for the upgradation of the balance 64 km length at a cost of Rs.21.76 crore.

20. Irrigation facilities will be provided for Keezhsivankulam Kanmai and other kanmais by constructing a dam across Paralaiyaru in Melappartibanur Village in Paramakudi division.

21. Irrigation facilities will be provided for the Periyayanaikulam Kanmai and other kanmais by constructing a dam across Paralaiyaru at Kamudi Division.

22. Irrigation facilities will be provided for Mallanur Kanmai and other kanmais by constructing a dam across Virushuzhi river at Kattivayal Village in Tiruvadanai Division.

23. A check dam will be constructed across Gundaru in Kakkakudi Village in Kamudi Division.

24. A check dam will be constructed across Gundaru at Sayalkudi Village in Kadaladi Division

At salubrious Coimbatore, Chief Minister speaks of M.G.R. centenary functions as ways of reaching people through schemes

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the Centenary celebration of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. at Coimbatore on 03.12.2017 (English translation).

I bow to the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who is the virtue of the earth, who lighted the lamps in the houses of the poor, who is a dwelling place of motherhood, the rebirth of dharma, and Mother Tamil who came to earth as Amma,

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal, who has given the presidential address at the centenary celebrations of the Ponmana Chemmal Dr.M.G.R.,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Dr.M.Thambidurai, who gave a special address,

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P. Velumani, who is the son of the soil who has made excellent arrangements for the

conference as one could see only heads of people everywhere,

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and former Minister Thiru.Pollachi V.Jayaraman, who stood with Thiru. Velumani, in organizing the conference and who in his speech listed out various achievements of this Government,

Secretary for Tamil Development and Information Department Thiru. R.Venkatesan, who welcomed the gathering,

Hon'ble Ministers, Thiru. A.K.Selvaraj, MP and Thiru. S.R.Balasubramanian, MP, Pollachi MP Thiru. C.Mahendran, Nilgiris MP Thiru. C.Gopalakrishnan, Coimbatore (North) MLA P.R.G.Arunkumar, Coimbatore (South) MLA Thiru. Amman K.Arjunan, Mettupalayam MLA Thiru. O.K.Chinnaraj, Kavundampalayam MLA Thiru. V.C.Arukutti, Kinathukadavu MLA Thiru. Ettimadai Shanmugam, Sulur MLA Thiru.R.Kanagaraj, Valparai MLA Tmt.V.Kasthuri, Chief Whip of the Tamil Nadu Government Thiru. S.Rajendran, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook Society and Educational Services Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, Coimbatore District Collector Thiru. T.N.Hariharan, who is to propose the vote of thanks, former Ministers, former MPs and former MLAs, representatives of the co-operative societies and former representatives of local bodies, volunteers, who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, respected elders, and ladies, youth, beneficiaries of various welfare assistance and friends from the print and visual media, at the outset I extend my welcome to you.

Nestling in the lap of the Western Ghats, and surrounded by hills, forests and river bodies, Coimbatore looks green everywhere in a way that soothes the mind and body. This District, which makes rapid progress in agriculture, industries, education, religion and tourism, has been a trading centre right from the early days. In cotton weaving it is called the **Manchester of South India.**

Since Coimbatore was ruled by Kosarkal, it was called Kosanputhur, which later became

Coimbatore. The Chalukyas, Pandyas, Cholas, Naickers, Mysore Kings and the British ruled this area at different times.

Variety Hall in Coimbatore is the first cinema theatre to come up in South India. It is now known as Delight Theatre. It was constructed in the year 1900 by Samikannu Vincent, who showed films in various towns.

Many industries were started in Coimbatore District by Samikannu Vincent's son Palvin Vincent, G.D.Naidu and T.Balasundaram. Today, Coimbatore stands as the second IT park in the State, and the centre of business activities like textiles, tea, vegetables, cultivation of roses for export, pump sets, grinders and steel units.

With Anamalai Masaniamman temple, St. Michael's Church, Patteeswar Temple in Perur, Murugan Temple in Maruthamalai, Eachanari Vinayagar Temple, Koniamman Temple, Lokanayagi Saneeswara Temple, and Anuvavi Subramaniya Temple, the District shines as a divine centre. Tea gardens in Valparai, Tiger Sanctuary in Anamalai, Topslip, Kovai Kutralam, Aazhiyar Dam, Vedagiri Maharishi Yoga Centre, Botanical Garden, Forest College, Museum, and Isha Yoga Centre are all attracting tourists and serve as tourist spots.

Science genius G.D.Naidu, Textool Balasundaram and G.K.Sundaram, Industrialist Pollachi Mahalingam, Scientist Mayilsamy Annadurai, former Union Finance Minister C.Subramaniam, Freedom fighters V.C.Vellingiri Gounder, Rathinasabapathi, and Kovai Ayyamuthu, former President of the Farmers Association Narayanasami Naidu, film Lyricist Udumalai Narayana Kavi, writer Rajesh Kumar are all famous sons of the District. Coimbatore has given as many well-known film artistes.

Coimbatore played a key role in the cinematic life of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Sathi Leelavathi was the first film in which Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was introduced. The chance to act in that film was given by Thiru. A.N. Marudachalam,

who belonged to Coimbatore District. Jupiter Pictures, which produced the film Rajakumari, wherein the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was first given the hero's role, was started in Coimbatore District. Thus Coimbatore District played an important part in the life of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Similarly, the film Malaikallan, which was the turning point in the film life of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., was produced by Pakshiraja Studio of Coimbatore. Actor-producer M.M.A. Chinnappa Thevar, who was a close friend of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and who produced ten films with him was also the native of the District.

Similarly, owner of Raja theatre, P.A.Raj, Peelamedu T.M.Naidu and several others were close friends of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

By providing electrification to the Maruthamalai Temple in the year 1962, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. became the people's hero of Coimbatore District.

After taking over the reins of the Government, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. set up Bharathiyar University in an area of 1,000 acres near Maruthamalai.

By winning 9 out of 10 MLAs and three out of three MPs in Coimbatore District, the AIADMK party has proved that **Coimbatore District is the fortress of the party**. I am happy to say that Coimbatore District is always the trusted District of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar.

Workers and entrepreneurs in Coimbatore District, by working together unitedly, fetched a unique place for Tamil Nadu in the world trade map.

It is a fitting place to celebrate the centenary celebrations of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. here, where the people are bringing substantial revenue to the State by their hard work.

Kongu means flower bunch and also honey. The Tamil language spoken by the people here, is sweeter than honey and that may be the reason for calling Coimbatore as Kongu Mandalam.

Here, I would like to mention an incident that happened in 1958 in the life of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar. At that time the Kaleeswarar Mills here was closed for over three years due to various issues and the workers' families were starving. At that time Puratchi Thalaivar Hon'ble M.G.R.'s film Nadodi Mannan was screening in the Raja theatre here. A social worker by name R.Sundaram collected money though hundi from the people who were waiting to see the film. As the people were fans of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. they donated liberally for the workers. The collected money was later handed over to the suffering workers. When Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. came to Coimbatore to participate in the silver jubilee celebration of the film, Thiru. Sundaram handed over a letter to Puratchi Thalaivar, explaining the pitiable condition of the mill workers. Immediately Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. donated a substantial sum of money for the workers. With the money, Sundaram purchased rice and distributed it to the starving workers. Thus Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. as well as his fans donated liberally for the poor workers and saved them from starvation.

Without expecting anything in return from them, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. helped the poor and the workers much before the thought of doing something for people through politics came to his mind.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar knew well that the poor would be happy only when their stomach is full, when they had houses of their own without loan, and when they were disease-free.

Through his films, he stressed that the Government should draw plans to make poor people happy. But the sufferings of the poor people and workers did not fall on the ears of the then ruling partymen. They forgot the welfare of the people while enjoying the fruits of power.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar after coming to power by forming a party of his own planned schemes such as nutritious meals programme for poor children, loans for starting business by poor people for regular monthly income, housing loan at subsidised interest and free medical facilities to make the poor smile. That is how he saw God in the smile of the poor. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar is the leader who realised the dreams of Peraringnar Anna.

At this juncture, a song penned by a poet in the year 1985 at the Pollachi Tamil Sangam, comes to my mind. 'Vaathiyaaru Paadi Vecha Paattu, Rasigar Mahajanangal Athai Kettu, Naadala Pottaargal vottu'. People welcomed the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's rule by singing that the time had come, Dharma had succeeded and good things happened.

It is only here that after the formation of the AIADMK by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, the party contested successfully in the by-election to the Coimbatore (West) Assembly under the Two Leaves symbol.

In the drama 'Inba Kanavu', Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar said that both new ideas and revolution were born only in huts. He spoke the dialogue, "We are the poor and we were born with hands and legs, they are the rich who were born with mouths and stomachs". Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar spoke these words not for films or for getting applause from the people. M.G.R. had true concern for the poor and the workers.

Mootharignar Rajaji once said that he was the last of the last party volunteer but wanted to be the first to work for the party.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar built up the party by working as the first and last worker of the AIADMK. I would like to point out here that the party always stood with workers. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar was a leader who lived for the Country and he did not know how to act for getting votes. It is not possible to erase the image of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. from the hearts of the people, ever though many years have gone by since his demise.

If anybody wants to write about the history of Tamil Nadu or that of the Country, he should allot more pages for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. than for others. Such is the power of M.G.R. in the political field.

People did not recognise those who betrayed Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar. They will not forget them at any time. Father, son, grandson

and even great grandson can come to politics. But none of them can come to power.

At a Government function in Tiruppur on 10.06.2002, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said Perarignar Anna said that one should have the strength of heart to bear anything. But the DMK did not have that heart. It was because of their greed for power. Either, he should get the post in Government or some one in his family should. That was their political ambition. Amidst their unending greed for power, the present Government has been creating records in various fields.

We repeat here the same words of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We are setting up records by following the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Schemes that are going to be inaugurated by me here today and schemes for which foundation stones are to be laid and other public welfare schemes are the standing examples of these records.

Through this function I am going to inaugurate 37 works costing Rs.691.69 crore, including a sub-station at Anikadavu set up at a cost of Rs.506.40 crore through the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

On behalf of the Coimbatore Corporation, I have laid the foundation for 39 schemes to be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,328.95 crore, including a drinking water scheme at a cost of Rs.556.17 crore and an underground sewerage project at a cost of Rs.442 crore. On behalf of various Departments, I am going to distribute welfare measures to 36,650 beneficiaries valued at Rs.118.83 crore.

This Government, after taking the reins, has inaugurated 35,991 schemes, implemented at a cost of Rs.15,240 crore. Foundation stones have been laid for 7,173 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.5,070.44 crore.

Totally, 43,164 works are being implemented at a total cost of Rs.20,211 crore.

I like to list out various works implemented by the Amma Government in the last six years.

12 Amma Canteens, and 144 parks have been set up in the Coimbatore Corporation.

Rs.560 crore has been spent for road development and construction of rain water drainage.

Employment has been facilitated for 7,084 youth in private sector.

Agricultural loans to the tune of Rs.123.65 crore have been waived for 23,416 marginal and small farmers.

Under ‘Kudimaramathu’ scheme, desilting has been done in irrigation canals to a length of 334.84 km at a cost of Rs.2.34 crore.

Drought relief to the tune of Rs.192.41 crore was distributed to 91,785 farmers.

47,71,000 cubic metre of de-silted sand has been distributed to 50,308 farmers at no cost.

Under the marriage assistance scheme for the educated poor women, Rs.101.81 crore and 107.67 kg of gold have been distributed to 26,318 poor women.

Laptops at no cost, valued at Rs.136.95 crore, have been distributed to 90,524 students.

Bicycles at no cost, worth Rs.43.99 crore, have been distributed to 1,30,693 students.

Bank loans to the tune of Rs.762.05 crore have been facilitated for starting own units by the 34,581 self-help groups by this Government.

With the participation and co-operation of the public, 598 works costing Rs.58 crore have been completed under the self-help scheme of the District Rural Development Agency.

64,738 toilets have completed at a cost of Rs.77.69 crore.

9,693 Green houses with solar power have been completed and handed to the beneficiaries.

A super speciality hospital has been constructed at a cost of Rs.63 crore.

Under the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, 10,888 multi-storied flats have been constructed at a cost of Rs.583.55 crore.

Under the houses for all scheme, 928 multi-storied flats have been constructed at a cost of Rs.84.92 crore.

Under the Highways Department, roads to a length of 1,836 km have been improved at a cost of Rs.1,073 crore.

54 bridges have been completed at a cost of Rs.249.08 crore.

In the current financial year, road works to a length of 588.18 km are under progress.

The first tier of the Rs.194.57crore overbridge on Dr.Nanjappa Salai in Gandhipuram in Coimbatore Corporation will be made available for public utility soon. The two-tier over-bridge on the 100-feet Chinnasami Salai will be completed by December 2018 and will be inaugurated.

I announced in the Assembly on 19.07.2017 under Rule 110 that the metro rail scheme would be implemented to completely ease the growing traffic congestion in the City. I am happy to announce that to select the consultant for preparing a brief feasibility and project reports, tenders were floated by the Chennai Metro Rail Company on 01.12.2017.

This is a mega scheme and when the scheme is completed it will provide a complete solution to the problem of traffic congestion faced by Coimbatore people.

GST rate has been reduced for the convenience of small industrialists of the District due to persistant efforts of the State Government at the GST Council meeting. This Government will stand by the entrepreneurs.

Similarly small industrialists met me today and submitted a memorandum requesting further reduction in GST rate. Their demand will be placed before the next GST Council meeting.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced in the Tamil Nadu Assembly under Rule 110 that a memorial would be constructed for the farmer leader Narayanasamy Naidu in Vaiyampalayam in Kovai District by the State Government. G.O has been issued for the construction of the memorial at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore and land has been allotted at Vaiyampalayam village. I am happy to announce that soon construction work would begin.

Steps are being taken to find financial resources and for implementation of an integrated drinking water scheme to benefit 500 rural habitations at Annur Panchayat Union and in Avinashi Panchayat Union in Tiruppur District.

Apart from these schemes, I am glad to inform that steps are being taken for laying a 32.4 km long West Circular Road for Coimbatore Corporation at a cost of Rs.320 crore, and a by pass road for Mettupalayam town at a cost of Rs.99.35 crore. Land acquisition work is ongoing for constructing a railway over-bridge replacing level-cross gate on the Ganapathi-Avarampalayam road at 0.6 km between Peelamedu and Coimbatore West railway stations. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi

Amma's Government has given permission to tap and sell Neera from coconut trees, a long-pending demand of the coconut farmers.

The State Government has permitted Neera tappping scheme from coconuts and I am confident that the scheme will improve the income of the farmers substantially.

Coconut farmers had been representing to the Government that they were not getting sufficient income by coconut cultivation and if neera tapping was allowed, their income would increase. They wanted the Government to enact a law for this purpose. The Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Government accepted their demand and fulfilled by the long-pending demand of coconut farmers. I am sure that this move by the Government would bring cheer to coconut farmers.

Due to the Election Commission's fair judgement, the true volunteers of the AIADMK got back the Two Leaves symbol. Once again, it has been proved that the soul of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is with us. If AIADMK party volunteers stand together unitedly, then not only the R.K.Nagar by-election, the party would successfully face 1,000 elections in future.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said in the Tamil Nadu Assembly that the AIADMK would remain a formidable force for the next 100 years. I appeal to you that we should prove Amma's statement in the coming election.

To express our sincere thanks for the historic judgement, we will submit the victory at the R.K.Nagar by-election at the golden feet of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Those who have been rejected by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the party volunteers, are some how trying to defend their action due to their inability. But that will not succeed.

In this connection I like to explain to you their position with a story.

A small stone was lying with other stones in a gravel road. A wheel of a cart removed the stone from the road and pushed it towards the road side. The stone said to itself, why should a talented stone like me rub shoulders with other stones. It said that it wanted to live alone and its desire had come true.

A boy who was walking on the road, took the stone in his hand. The stone now said that it wanted to travel and its wish had been fulfilled. The boy did not keep the stone for long but threw it at a house. The stone now said that it wanted to fly. That too had happened now. The stone, thrown by the boy broke the glass panes of a window in a house and fell on a cotton mattress. The stone said that it had got tired of travelling all along. Now, it had got a chance to take rest for some time. At that time the servant of the house picked the stone and threw it out. The stone now landed back on the gravel road. Then the stone told its friends that just now it had taken rest in a big man's house. It was bored by that life and came back again to live with them. While it was saying so, a lorry ran over the stone. The stone then said that these things were common in life and so saying the stone itself got crushed to pieces.

You might be seeing how the greed of some people collapsed. This will be the fate of the people who try to build castles in the air without doing anything for the people. Those who try to

stall good things for the people will be punished by God or by the people. Now God, Law and the souls of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Amma punished them. In the coming by-election, the people will teach them a lesson.

Seven Districts in South Tamil Nadu were affected by Ockhi Storm, the worst-hit being Kanniyakumari District. To provide relief to the affected people of Kanniyakumari District, the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government immediately sent the Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar to the affected areas, who toured the affected places and immediately carried out relief measures. For assisting him, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Thiru.P.Thangamani was also sent. Many sub-stations were affected in the District. Over 3,750 electric lamp-posts were uprooted by the storm. To set these things right, the Government deployed 2,000 workers. To supervise their work, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, and engineers were sent. They are staying at the affected areas and the repair works are going on in full swing. In a few days the works will be completed and the people in Kanniyakumari District will get uninterrupted power supply.

Due to stagnation of rain water in low-lying areas, people residing in such places have been moved to safe areas and are being provided all necessary help. To provide medical assistance to those affected by rain-related diseases, special mobile medical teams have been deployed to treat them at their place of residence by the Amma Government. For those who are admitted in camps, treatment is being given at the camp itself. Medical teams have been sent to prevent infectious diseases and treat those affected by the disease.

To enable affected people get relief immediately, a four-member I.A.S., team has been sent and they are also carrying out relief measures. The Central Government accepted the demand of the State Government and deployed the Navy and Coast Guard services to trace the missing fishermen who went to sea before the storm for fishing. I would like to point out that 15 ships, 4 planes, and 5 helicopters, are engaged in tracing the fishing fishermen.

Officials from the Revenue Department and Fisheries Department are taking survey in 44 villages to find out how many fishermen had gone to sea for fishing and based on the survey retrieval work is being done.

Besides all this, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister has gone to Kanniyakumari District to meet the affected people in person, and for providing them relief. He is in consultation with officials in carrying out further relief to the affected people.

I would like to say in this occasion that as far as this Government is concerned, it has been taking all necessary steps in a focussed manner.

Unfortunely, the Opposition leader Thiru. M.K.Stalin and some other oppposition leaders are making false campaigns that fishermen who had gone missing had not been traced. The Amma Government with the help of the Central Government has been taking all possible measures to trace the missing fishermen and the search will continue till the last fisherman is traced. Fishermen need not have any fear. The present Amma Government is a Government for fishermen. The Amma Government is taking all possible steps to trace the missing fishermen.

The Centenary celebrations of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar are being celebrated in a grand manner in the State. So far the centenary celebrations have been completed in 27 places. This is the 28th District where the celebration has been organised. Here one could see the enthusiasm m of the people. Leader of the Opposition Thiru. M.K.Stalin, who could not digest the massive support to the Government from the people has filed a false case against this Government charging that a youth was fatally knocked down due to collapse of a welcome arch put up by the volunteers here. Though I regret the demise of the youth Raghu, I like to point out that the youth's death was not due to collapse of the arch. When the clippings of CCTV were reviewed it was found that the youth died due to lorry accident. The clippings were handed over to the court. When this is the actual fact, the Opposition Party leader who could not digest the people's massive support for the celebration is trying to spread false information among the public. The Opposition Leader is not able to digest the growing popularity of the AIADMK and wants to remove the arches here. You, the people here, know how many arches had been put up for the Classical Tamil conference here organised during their rule. They could set up arches during their regime but could not tolerate the same when we erect the arches.

Today, both the people and the party volunteers are participating in the function enthusiastically. It is exhibited by putting up banners in the praise of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. While the Classical Language conference organised by them during their regime was exclusively for their family, this Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's centenary celebration is a people's function. It is not a family function like Classical Tamil conference. We organise the centenary celebration to inaugurate and lay the foundation for new schemes for the benefit of the people. I have listed out the number of schemes executed by this Amma Government in the last six years. Have they done anything like this during their regime?

They had spent Rs.262 crore for the Classical Tamil conference. Unlike them, we distribute welfare assistance to thousands of poor people through these celebrations. We have inaugurated many schemes for the benefit of the people and laid the foundation for welfare schemes. We utilise these functions to make people aware of various schemes of the people.

Coimbatore District is always the fortress of the Amma and nobody should forget that.

The Hon'ble Minister belonging to the District, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, and MLAs of the District have made certain demands to me. I would like to point out some of them here in my announcements.

I thank the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Thiru.Pollachi Jayaraman, party MPs, MLAs, other party workers and media friends for their co-operation in successfully organizing this conference.

I request the party workers, womenfolk and children through this conference to be careful while returning home. You should reach home safely.

Yesterday was ours, today is ours, and tomorrow will also be ours.

Vazhga Anna Namam,Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh. Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's Government.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister made the following announcements at the conference.

Announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Centenary celebrations.

1. A new division will be formed with headquarters at Anamalai by bifurcating Pollachi Revenue Division.

Multi-storied tenements:

2. 1,792 multi-storied flats will be constructed by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board by utilizing 18.74 acres of land transferred from the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, at a cost of Rs.162 crore at Kuppachipalayam in Periya Naickenpalayam town panchayat.

Drinking water schemes:

3. Taking into consideration the additional requirement of drinking water for the extended areas of the Coimbatore Corporation, Pillur Drinking Water Scheme Phase III will be implemented with the financial assistance from Amrit and Asian Development Bank, at a cost of Rs.750 crore with Bhavani river as the source.

4. For the Kavundampalayam, Vadavalli, and Veerakeralam areas, 23 MLD of drinking water will be supplied through the Vadavalli combined drinking water improvement scheme. For the increased supply, the infrastructure at the treatment centre will be improved by replacing the existing power changer with higher power and replacing the concrete pipes with steel pipes. All these works will be executed at a cost of Rs. 32.95 crore as part of Pillur III scheme.

5. To increase the storage capacity of the Siruvani Dam, the Coimbatore Corporation, TWAD Board, and Kovai Isa Trust will jointly undertake de-silting operation at the dam after getting the permission from the Kerala Government.

6. With financial assistance from NABARD Bank, and Bhavani river as the source, a combined drinking water supply scheme will be implemented at an estimate of Rs.241 crore for the benefit of 1.92 lakh people in Annur and Mupperipalayam town panchayats in Coimbatore District, for Avinashi town panchayat, Sulur IAF base and to people in 155 villages in Tiruppur and Palladam Unions.

7. For the 212 rural habitations in Pollachi South and Pollachi North and Kinathukadavu Panchayat Unions in Coimbatore District, a combined drinking water supply scheme with Aazhiyaru as the water source, will be taken for review.

Vegetable Market:

8. Under the Coimbatore Corporation's Smart City Scheme, the existing vegetable market in Mettupalayam road will be shifted to a 12 acre area in the 35 acre fertilizer godown complex on the same road. The new market will have space to accommodate more shops, and additional parking facilities.

Underground foot path:

9. A feasibility study will be undertaken for setting up a pedestrian underground subway

or an over-bridge footpath at the junction of Thadagam Road and N.S.R.Salai for the free movement of people to relieve the existing heavy traffic in that junction.

10. The existing zoo at the V.O.Chidambaram Park complex will be renovated to an international standard with additional recreational facilities at a cost of Rs.20 crore.

11. It has been decided to name the new two-tier bridge at Gandhipuram after Dr.M.G.R.

12. With a view to set up an underground drainage system in the newly added Vadavalli, Veerakeralam Vellaikinar, Chinnavedampatti, Saravananpatti, Koundampalayam, and Thudiyalur areas in the Coimbatore Corporation, the TWAD has undertaken a survey. Soon an extended project report will be prepared based on the survey.

Processing centres:

13. In Chikkadasan Palayam, Sulur, Vadakki Palayam Puluvapatti, Pitchanur Aanamalai, and Pollachi, Primary processing centres, auction centre, refrigerating facility, Farmers' training centres, shops, quality control centres, office and weigh bridge will be provided at a cost of Rs.27.27 crore.

14. For the benefit of farmers of Coimbatore District, computer weighbridge of 60 MT capacity, digitalization of auction centre, Cotton grading centre, computer and generator facilities will be provided at the Annur Regulated Market. It will be linked to National Agricultural market with Rs.1.06 crore assistance from the Centre's National Agricultural Infrastructure Fund and NABARD .

New Veterinary Centres:

15. New veterinary centres will be set up in four villages - Devampadi, and Avalappatti villages in Pollachi North Panchayat Union, and Iluppanatham under the Karamadai Panchayat Union, and Kolarpatti in Pollachi South Panchayat Union.

Construction of check dams:

16. A check dam will be constructed across Koraiyur river at Mannur village in Pollachi division, at a cost of Rs.1.79 crore.

17. A check dam across Periyapallam in Thekkampatti village in Mettupalayam Division at a cost of Rs. 1.59 crore.

18. Another check Dam will be constructed across Periyapallam at Kemmarampalayam village in Mettupalayam Division at a cost of Rs.1.10 crore.

19. A check dam will be constructed across Kumittipathi river in Thirumalaipalayam village in Madukkarai division at a cost of Rs. 62.70 lakh.

Medical facilities:

20. A Primary Health Centre will be set up at Vada Chittur Village in Kinathukadavu Panchayat Union.

21. Under the JICA scheme, modern equipment will be purchased and infrastructure will be improved at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs. 286.68 crore.

22. Heart attack treatment centres will be set up in the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital,

and at its allied hospitals at Mettupalayam, Palladam, Pollachi, and Valparai, at a cost of Rs.one crore to diagnose the attacks at the initial stage itself.

23. New modern equipment for the Mother and Child Care Ward, and Burns Ward, Pain relieving and support treatment centre for cancer patients, fertility centre at no cost, digital subtraction and angiography facility will be provided at the Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs. 8.41 crore.

24. A new pharmacy godown will be set up at a cost of Rs.75 lakh in Coimbatore District.

25. Computer tablet will be given to 328 village nurses in Coimbatore District at a cost of Rs.32.80 for recording medical statistics.

26. Additional primary health care facilities will be provided in Aanamalai Division at a cost of Rs.101 lakh.

27. At the Pollachi District headquarters hospital additional infrastructure facilities, including modern equipments such as angiography, dialysis, and endoscopy, will be provided at a cost of Rs.7.65 crore.

28. A modern ophthalmic centre will be set up at a cost of Rs.16 lakh at the Karamadai community medical centre.

29. A dialysis unit will be installed at a cost of Rs. 8.22 lakh at the Mettupalayam Government Hospital.

30. A dialysis unit will be installed at a cost of Rs. 8.22 lakh at the Valparai Government Hospital.

Electrification:

31. A new 33/11 kw Sub-station will be set up at Saravanampatti Alliance Commercial complex at a cost of Rs.10.78 crore.

32. A 110/22 kw Sub-station will be set up at Devampalayam at a cost of Rs 11.37 crore.

33. A 110/22 kw Sub-station will be set up at Pappanaickenpalayam at a cost of Rs.9.64 crore.

34. A 110/10 kw Sub-station will be set up at Pattanam at a cost of Rs.22.34 crore. 8.5 crore.

35. A 110/22 Sub-station will be set up at Samathur at a cost of Rs. 8.5 crore.

36. Computer based power disruption repairing centres in four places in Coimbatore division.

High level bridges:

37. A high-level over-bridge on the Ukkadam- Aathupalam in Kovai at a cost of Rs. 121.2 crore.

38. A high level bridge on the Thudiyalur – Chinnathadagam Road replacing the existing road under bridge.

39. A high level over-bridge will be constructed between 0.4 km and 69.6 km on the Ooty- Kothagiri- Mettupalayam - Sakthi - Gopi- Erode –S.Sungampalayam road.

40. A high level over-bridge will be constructed on the road leading to Edayarpalayam on the Pothanur- Vellalur Road at a cost of Rs.1 crore.

41. A high level over-bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1 crore on the Aanamalai – Pulanginar road.

42. A high level bridge will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1 crore on the Thappattai Road bordering Kerala at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crore.

43. A high level over-bridge will be constructed on the Coimbatore- Thondamuthur Narasipuram Road at a cost of Rs.2.10 crore.

44. A high level over bridge will be constructed on the Chinthamani Pudur-Nadupalayam Road leading to Pappampatti at 0/10 km at a cost of Rs.3.50 crore.

45. A high- level over-bridge will be constructed at 8/10 km on the Ganapathi – Athipalayam road at a cost of Rs.2 crore.

46. A bridge at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore will be constructed at 15/8 km on the Kamanaickenpalayam – Negamam-Chettipalayam Road.

47. A bridge across Noyyal River will be constructed at 0/6km on the Porur- Vedapatti Road.

48. A bridge will be constructed at km2/4 on the Mettupalayam –Kichakathur Road at a cost of Rs.1.1 crore.

Railway over-bridges:

49. A railway over-bridge on the Thanneer Pandal Road between Singanallur – Peelamedu railway stations replacing the existing railway level crossing at a cost of Rs.12.65 crore.

50. A foot-over bridge with escalator facility near Coimbatore railway station.

51. A Railway over-bridge on the Gandhiji road between Peelamedu – Coimbatore North Railway stations replacing the existing level crossings at a cost of Rs.14 crore.

52. A railway over-bridge on the Ramachandra Naidu Street between Coimbatore and Irugur Railway station replacing the existing level crossing at a cost of Rs. 26.7 crore.

53. A railway over-bridge replacing the existing railway level crossing on the SIHS Colony road between Irugur- Peelamedu stations at a cost of Rs.58.52 crore.

Preparing project report for the railway over-bridges:

54. A railway over-bridge on the Thudiyalaur Saravanampatti Road between Kovai North and Thudiyalur railway stations replacing the existing level crossing at the km 6/12.

55. Railway over-bridge on the Thudiyalur-Kovilpalayam road at km 1/10 between Coimbatore North and Karamadai Railway stations and a limited underground subway.

56. Railway over-bridge on the Pollachi – Palakkad Road between Pollachi – Kinathukadavu railway stations replacing the existing level crossing.

57. A railway over-bridge on the road leading to Vadugankalipalayam from Kamanaickenpalayam –Annur Road between Somanur and Vanjipalayam railway stations.

58. A railway over-bridge between Vanchipalayam and Somanur railway stations on the Sedarpalayam Vaikalpalayam town panchayat road.

59. A railway over-bridge between Somanur and Sulur railway stations on the Karavali Madhapur (via) Kaniyur road.

60. A railway over-bridge between Peelamedu and North Kovai stations on the Rathnapuri Thillai Nagar Road.

61. A railway over-bridge on the Rasipalayam Thennampalayam road.

62. A railway over-bridge between Karamadai and Mettupalayam railway stations on the Karamadai – Tholampalayam road.

Project reports are being prepared for the following works.

63. A by-pass road to Annur town.

64. A 13.2 km long east by-pass road for Karamadai town.

65. A 9.5 km long West by-pass road in Pollachi town.

66. A 23.7 km long alternative road to Pollachi- Kovai Road via Chettipalayam.

67. A high level road from Uppilipalayam in Coimbatore town to Chinniyampalayam Kalapatti Airport (Salem- Cochin State highway).

68. Development of 8.6 km long road linking Kovai Airport and Mettupalayam via Chitra Kurumpalayam.

An expert committee will be formed for the Aanamalaiaru –Nallaru scheme. Though many steps were initiated for implementing the Aazhiyaaru Scheme in the last 27 years, they are not successful due to various reasons. Soon concrete measures will be taken to solve the issue for implementing the scheme. An expert committee consisting of experienced retired officers and engineers will be formed soon for this purpose.

The scheme, if implemented, will benefit the four Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Karur. The scheme will protect the livelihood of lakh of people in these Districts, besides conserving water going waste into sea, and providing uninterrupted water supply. The Government will also consider the demand for providing drip irrigation facilities.

Similarly the Athikadavu- Avinashi scheme has left certain areas. Following the demand by the Minister of the District, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and Thiru. Selvaraj, MP the Government will conceive a new scheme for including the left out areas in Karamadai Union and Periyanaicken Palayaam. Similarly there is a demand for expanding the existing airport at Coimbatore. To solve the issue, the Amma Government will soon hand over required land to the Airport Authority and take steps for the expanding the airport.

Kovai District has many industries. To make the District more attractive for industrialists and for setting up IT parks, the Amma Government will take necessary steps and stand with those who come forward to start industries here.